

THE MESSENGER

Session News for the Pews, July 2022



**The Congregational Meeting
to elect Deacons and Elders is
rescheduled to July 24th**

Designated Pastor Nominating Committee

The DPNC have entered a very busy period as we focus our search on three strong candidates. We have had several conversations on Teams with our candidates and look forward to having them visit our church, our community and our ministry partners. The pandemic has created a treasure trove of online worship services, so we have been able to listen to sermons and observe worship styles of each of our candidates. We have spoken to their references and our Presbytery leadership has spoken to the leadership of the Presbytery with which they are a member. Our Committee on Ministry liaison has been with us every step of the way with direction and support.

Our interviews have focused on the experience that each bring from their many years in ministry. How do their gifts match with the vision and mission of our church? How will they help us to build ministry that is the embodiment of that vision? How will they nurture and lead the congregation to deepen spiritual formation while helping us each to grow as disciples? How do they build community that is grounded in unity but allows for differences of opinion? How do they maintain healthy boundaries and self-care and what will they ask of our congregation so that they are not overwhelmed with the demands of ministry?

The DPNC has been wrestling with these questions and refining our hopes since we organized as the Mission and Vision Team in March 2021. We represent different ages and church experiences but are united in our belief that the Holy Spirit is leading this process.

We ask you, the congregation, to continue to pray for the discernment of our DPNC and the pastors who are considering a call to this congregation. We pray that you will open your hearts and minds to receive the pastor we choose to place before you as a candidate. Now is the time to consider your expectations and align them with our Vision and Mission Statement and to prayerfully measure those expectations against the desire to build a faithful community that lives God's story of love.

Once a candidate is selected and the Presbytery approves the terms of call, the Session will call a congregational meeting. A letter will be sent to the congregation introducing our candidate. Our candidate will be invited for a weekend visit to lead worship and meet the congregation. Worship will be followed that day by a congregational meeting to affirm the choice of candidate by extending a call and approving the terms of the call.

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 Sharing Christ's good news of joy, hope, and healing.

Yearly Taylor Jacobsen Art Scholarship

CQC (Saline Coalition for a Quality Community) is creating an art scholarship fund in Taylor's name. Once a year, in December, the CQC will write a check to Saline Area Social Service. SASS will be administering the funds to those in need. To participate, please write a check to "Coalition for Quality Community" and send mail to: CQC/SLI, P.O. Box 697, Saline, MI 48176-0697. Please write "Taylor Jacobson Scholarship Fund" on the check's memo line.

Word-Share-Prayer: Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.



Blessing High School Class of 2022 Graduates

First Presbyterian Church of Saline celebrates the graduation of its High School students in worship with prayers of blessing and special gifts Sunday, August 7, 2022. We will celebrate and bless four young people who have been part of this congregation, and a reception with cake and treats will follow.

This year we celebrate Chase Young and William Manchester - Huron High School, Ann Arbor.
Sara McVey - Brighton High School, Brighton.
Gabe Schmidt- Saline High School.

Send items via USPS or email to Linda Tyler Brown, or fill out a form in the Narthex. Last date to submit is June 24th. Our mailbox is a safe place to drop off materials after hours.

Send photos of Sara, William, Gabe, and Chase over the years participating in church activities

Send written words of blessing and encouragement

- Memories of watching them grow up
- Stories of tough times in your own life when your faith in God helped you
- Favorite Scripture and why that passage has become important to you
- Prayers or inspirational quotes
- How you have prayed for them over the years and how you will continue to do so
- Special cards and notes of congratulations to each

All of these will go into a special memory book for each graduate. God’s love never changes, never diminishes, never falters. These young people have experienced a great deal of disruption, uncertainty, and loss during their high school careers. Please let us join together to remind them (and ourselves) of the one thing which is constant, the one thing which they will always have, the never-failing presence of God, and the continuing constant prayers and care of their church family.

From the Finance Committee: Church Investments

Our church's investments are held by and are being managed by Charles Schwab. Our managed portfolio is invested under a moderate risk profile (60% stocks and 40% bonds). Our year to date performance is down 11.7%.

As a frame of reference, here are some common YTD financial benchmarks as of 5/31/22.

Dow Jones - 9.2%
S&P 500 - 13.3%
NASDAQ - 22.8%

Schwab is also holding approximately \$66,000 in cash beyond our checking account balance at Old National Bank. We have been keeping a healthy cash balance while we work through the uncertainties of Covid and hiring a new minister. If we look at our two Schwab accounts in whole, then we were down 9.7% as of 5/31/22 (\$391k - 353k = Down 38k).

Clerk's Session Notes -June

Note: a more detailed version was emailed to the congregation on 6/23/2022. 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. Prior to the Session meeting, Elders met for a pizza dinner to discuss the scheduling of annual church-wide activities, special offerings and other items of interest in the Church life.

The Clerk reported that as of Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 116 member surveys. if you haven't yet turned one in, please do so as soon as possible.

The congregation celebrated the confirmation of William Manchester on June 5. Welcome William!

June Jamboree was Sunday, June 19 immediately following the worship service. Lots of face painting, rock painting, Euchre, filling soap bags for the Hope Clinic laundromat, button making and conversations. The pizza, salads, Gelato and strawberry shortcake was a treat for everyone.

There will be a workday on Saturday, July 16 at Cass Community Social Services. On Sunday, July 17, there will be a dedication ceremony for the Taylor Park in recognition of Taylor's Jacobsen's commitment to the people of Cass Community. Watch for more information in The Weekly Connect.

Treasurer Report: YTD Income: \$94K; YTD Expenses (\$65K); Net \$29K