

THE MESSENGER

Session News for the Pews, June 2022

Word-Share-Prayer: Joshua 6: 3-5, 20

"You shall march around the city, all the warriors circling the city once. Thus you shall do for six days, and seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; and on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets. with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up every man straight before him. So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpets, they raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat; so the people charged straight ahead into the city and captured it."



Jamboree Activities For All Ages

- Music DJ
- Bigalora
- Food Truck: woodfired pizzas, small plates, gelato
- Cornhole
- Bounce House
- Strawberry Shortcake, 12:45pm
- Face Painting
- Button making
- Popcorn
- Euchre
- Paint a kindness rock! 12:45pm
- Enjoy a "Soap Party," complete a service project to benefit Hope Clinic, 11:45a



Congratulations, University Graduates!

There will be a special blessing during Worship on June 19 for our Graduates from the past year:

Erica Brown (Keith and Susan Brown)
Nick Champion (Laurie Champion)
Grace Livsey (Bari and John Livsey)
Chris Frego (Arleta Greer)

We will celebrate High School Graduates in August.



From the Moderator of Session: Worship

During each Session meeting, the docket includes *A Time for the Moderator*. With an eye toward leader development within the Session, the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Budge Gere, usually spends the time focusing on topics the Session has responsibility for and must make decisions. At the May meeting, Dr. Gere shared thoughts about worship, specifically Reformed (Presbyterian) worship. Below are some points Dr. Gere raised in his presentation that Session members thought members of the congregation would find interesting and helpful in their worship practice.

The basic purpose of worship is to glorify God. To that end, the words of the 19th century philosopher Kierkegaard set forth a model that captures that spirit. Kierkegaard suggested that we are "to think of worship as a drama, and in the act of worship, the members of the congregation are the actors, the minister and the choir are the prompters, and God Almighty is the audience."

When that model is followed, worship can no longer be thought of as a passive activity. Rather, to meet the goal of glorifying God, worship must be thought of as participatory, a time during which worshipers are actively engaged. No longer is the focus on "Did I like the sermon or the music at church today?" Rather, the operative question is "Did I find meaning in the service of worship as I engaged in the drama of the worship service, the words spoken and sung and prayed?"

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The words "worship" and "liturgy" are often used interchangeably. The word liturgy comes from a Greek word that translates into English as "work." Thus, the meaning of the word "worship" means "the work of the people." With Kierkegaard's model for worship in mind, coupled with our understanding of the meaning of the words worship and liturgy, we can gain a richer meaning of our role and responsibility whenever we gather for worship.

One of Session's responsibilities is for the ordering and oversight of worship in the life of a Presbyterian Church. Within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Book of Order is a section titled "The Directory for Worship." It serves as a ready reminder of the principles by which Presbyterian worship can be ordered and designed. When read and studied, the Directory helps its readers realize both the richness of traditional Presbyterian worship practices and potential opportunities for creative expression Presbyterian worship allows, even advocates.

The Moderator ended his remarks by charging Session to acquaint themselves and the congregation with the contents of "The Directory for Worship" to the end of forging a participatory, creative, imaginative worship life that captures both the church's new Vision Statement and the motto of the Presbyterian Church: A church reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God.

Clerk's Session Notes -May

Note: a more detailed version was emailed to the congregation on 5/19/22. 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 Bill Woehrle using Joshua 8, the biblical account of the delivery of Jericho to Joshua.

Session will continue to follow the recommendations of Washtenaw County which is currently at a high COVID-19 community level. At this level, Washtenaw County recommends that everyone wear a mask in indoor public locations.

The Clerk reported that as of Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 98 member surveys have been returned. Thank you to those who have returned the surveys and if you haven't, please do so as soon as possible.

The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee continues to coordinate with the Committee on Ministry to receive resumes and proceed with interviews.

The handbells of First Presbyterian Church of Saline have been played since 1998! In this time the bells have become well used and are showing natural wear. At the request of the Worship Committee and the bell ringers, Session approved that the bells and cases be refurbished. This will be done over the Summer and in the Fall, we will once again enjoy the melodies of the bells.

Treasurer Report:
YTD Income: \$70K; YTD
Expenses (\$48K); Net \$22K



Celebrated on the 19th of every June, this event commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States in 1865.

The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee includes Susan Brown, John Coffey (Chair), Arleta Greer, Bonnie Leutheuser, Fred Lupton, and Debra Manchester. The Congregational Meeting to elect new Deacons and Elders will be held on July 10 immediately following the Worship service. *Please pray for the Nominating Committee, as they continue their process of discerning the next class of Deacons and Elders.*

June is Pride Month

During Pride Month, we recognize the resilience and determination of the many LGBTQ+ individuals who are fighting to live freely and authentically. In doing so, they are opening hearts and minds and laying the foundation for a more just and equitable America.- *White House Pride Month Proclamation, 2021*

