

MESSENGER

September 2022

January 1 is the official beginning of a new year, but to me September feels like the actual start to a new year. I suppose this is because the rhythm of the school year remains deeply ingrained in my internal calendar. Perhaps it is also because church calendars run on a similar schedule as the school year. It is a time of new beginnings, of reminders that God remains at work after a quiet summer. Kingdom Kids preschool has begun with an unusually high enrollment -- three full classes! What an opportunity to share the love of Christ with our community. Bible studies are beginning again after summer break. Fellowship events are being planned.

This fall we kick things off with a book release! Four years ago, Janis Wallis, Father Root, Sharon Hunt (principal at Holy Family School), Karen Petersen Finch and I met in my office and began wondering: what would a dialogue look like between First Pres. and Holy Family. Could it be done? As you know, it could and did. The first dialogue started in February of 2020 only to be cut off by the pandemic. We picked up again in the Fall of 2020, then again during Lent of 2021. We had rich conversations as we learned about the similarities between Presbyterians and Catholics. Admittedly, such dialogues do not look impressive. Neither church experienced a drastic increase in attendance as a result of the dialogues. We have not combined congregations. We don't even worship together aside from the occasional funeral or visit. And yet, as Karen is fond of saying, the Kingdom of God (especially church relations) happens slowly. Perhaps it adds perspective to consider that there is a 500 year church divorce in our history! One never knows how the Holy Spirit is working and for what the Spirit may be preparing us.

So, yes, there is a book launch and the book features two humble churches in little Clarkston, WA. But there is so much more going on in this event. Even if you did not come to the original dialogues, I hope that you will join us for this event. It's an opportunity to be part of something much larger than the average book launch (and how often do we have one of those here anyway!). In John 3, the Lord Jesus reminds us that we do not know where the Holy Spirit goes, but surely wherever God's people gather in his name, he is among them.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Preaching Notes

These days we like to throw around the word “unprecedented.” We use it in reference to the pandemic, to politics, even to the weather. But any study of history will reveal that people have always lived through “unprecedented” times. Each generation of God’s people faces challenges afresh. We’ve always thrown around the word “unprecedented” and we’ve always asked ‘what on earth is going on?’ We need a guide and we need wisdom. Like us, the prophet Jeremiah (b. ~650-570 BC) lived through disruptive times and is the stalwart guide we need. Jeremiah lived through the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Exile -- some of the darkest moments for God’s people. Everything that could go wrong did -- especially for Jeremiah. But Jeremiah stuck it out. He persevered, he prayed, and he preached. The great disruptions through which Jeremiah lived deepened him and strengthened him. The same can happen for us with Jeremiah as our guide.

Sept 4 Jeremiah 1:11-18 Battle

Sept 11 Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Judgment

Sept 18 Jeremiah 2:4-13 Cisterns

Sept 25 Jeremiah 7 Reform

Oct 2 Jeremiah 18 Pottery

Session Highlights

The session met twice over the summer to welcome incoming elders (Bob Vallandigham & Rand Myklebust), review the roles & activities, among other “nuts and bolts” tasks. We held significant conversations around stewardship of our resources, mainly buildings and finances. How does God want us to use them? Where is the Spirit leading us? We also reflected on what makes for a healthy/successful church and the role of the Holy Spirit in bringing renewal to churches. Here are the elder assignments for the 2022/2023 year:

Moderator: Dave Webster

Clerk of Session: Christi Vallandigham (not a voting elder)

Administration: Margo McCroskey

Adult Discipleship: Jim Babino

Buildings & Grounds: Bob Vallandigham & Rand Myklebust

Children’s/Kingdom Kids: Andy Johnson

Fellowship: Don Greggain

Mission: Andy Johnson

Nominating Committee: Don Greggain

Worship: Don Greggain

A Message from your Deacons

The Deacons manage the Matthew 25 fund, based on Matthew 25:35-36. “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. “ If you are aware of a need within the church family, or with a friend or neighbor, please contact a Deacon or Ginny in the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

09/08/2022 - Thursday Adult Bible Study Group will start meeting again at 10:00 a.m. In the Narthex. All are welcome!

09/09/2022 - Friday morning Grumpies will start meeting again at 8:00 a.m. In the Narthex.

9/18/22 - The fall Kickoff and Back to School BBQ will be September 18th at 11:30 pm. We Hope to see everyone there!

9/11 & 9/18/ 2022 - Open house at Kingdom Kids after church service .
Grab a cup of coffee at coffee hour and come check in on the outreach ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Church Financials as of July 31, 20022

	YTD
INCOME	\$160,372.12
EXPENSES	\$174,003.23
INC/EXP	\$(13,631.11)



It's back to school time and August 30th was the start of the new school year for Kingdom Kids Preschool. This year we are excited to announce that we have morning and afternoon Playschool classes and a morning Preschool class. We are blessed to have 30 children in our faith based, early learning program. The children in our Playschool classes are 3 to 4 years old and attend 2 days a week. The children in our Preschool class are 4 to 5 years old and attend 3 days a week. Our focus is to create an environment where children experience God's love, feel excited about learning, feel free to explore and express feelings in acceptable ways, enjoy opportunities for success and experience exploring and making choices.

Jennifer Babino is the Director and Lead Teacher at Kingdom Kids. This is her third year with the program. Carla Paradis is the Classroom Aide at Kingdom Kids. This is Carla's 16th year with the program. Together they serve the children and families enrolled in our program each year.

August 2020 brought exciting changes to Kingdom Kids when the program moved from the Youth Building next to Foster Park into the remodeled house owned by the church and located at 909 12th Street.

Sunday, September 11 and Sunday 18 Jennifer will be at the Preschool after church, during coffee hour, to give tours of the building and answer questions about the program. We hope you will stop by and check in on this outreach ministry of First Presbyterian Church.