

First Presbyterian Church

Summer Messenger

Preaching Notes

For the summer I will follow the Lectionary Psalm readings each Lord's Day. Recall that the Lectionary is a calendar of Scripture readings for each Lord's Day (covering the Old Testament, the Psalms, the New Testament Letters, and the Gospels). The Psalms often link with the other readings for a particular day. The Psalm diet provided by the Lectionary this summer covers the major categories of Psalms: praise, lament, thanksgiving, history, and prophecy. My hope is that we will not only reflect on the Good News found in the Psalms but also learn from them how to engage with this Good Shepherd who leads us.

Online Worship

Come join us in virtual worship! The Pastor's sermon will be streamed from our church YouTube channel (FPC1122) every Sunday. You can also view the worship services by visiting our church Facebook page, or by going to [firstpresclarkston.org](https://www.firstpresclarkston.org) and clicking on the "Worship" tab.

FROM THE PASTOR

In 1804, Lewis and Clark set out to explore the new territory known as the Louisiana Purchase. They planned to travel the waterways all the way to the Pacific. All the experts of the day believed there was a water route connecting the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark envisioned cresting a hill, finding the river, and coasting to the Pacific. Instead, they found themselves face to face with a boundary of peaks stretching as far as the eyes could see -- a wall of rock we call the Rocky Mountains. In this newfound, uncharted wilderness, Lewis and Clark would have to press ahead without experts, without maps, without "best practices" and no sure guides.

We find ourselves confronting a similar wilderness. We, like most congregations, have moved out of the "urgent" phase of living in this wilderness and into the "what now" phase. We have moved into the phase of exploration, of trial and error, of discerning how "church will look" in this new territory. We have shifted from the novelty of "church-in-my-pajamas-with-coffee-in-hand" to "how do we get back to 'normal' or the 'new-normal'?" What will our church-life, and what will ministry look like in this post-COVID territory?

We do not know. Thankfully, we *do* know the one who is "the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow" (Heb. 13:8). Jesus Christ remains the Good Shepherd of this congregation. He watches over his sheep and ensures that even in times of wilderness, his sheep are nurtured and protected. This Good Shepherd has also given us a map (his Scriptures), "best practices" (prayer, the sacraments, preaching, etc), an expert (the Holy Spirit), and guides (pastors, elders, and deacons). All these have sustained the church through wilderness after wilderness, generation after generation. Engaging with them will give us the wisdom and courage we need to adapt to this new territory.

Sometimes this new landscape -- this wilderness -- will look unfamiliar, intimidating, and at other times beautiful. Nevertheless, because our Good Shepherd continues to lead us, we can face this adaptation with the joy of adventure and exploration rather than fear. We can move forward in hope, knowing our Lord's care and leadership.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

COVID-19 and the New Normal of Church Ministry

There is a reason we call the room in which we worship on Sunday the “sanctuary.” The purpose of a church building is to provide a refuge from the dangers of the world. COVID-19, however, does not respect our “sanctuaries.” It is just as likely to sit on a stack of bulletins as a grocery cart, or the offering plates as a gas pump. It is just as likely transmitted from a dear friend as from a stranger. As the Session of First Presbyterian Church, we desire to balance *both* the importance of worshipping together (satisfying our spiritual needs) *and* loving our neighbor through safe health practices. This requires us to exercise patience, adaptability, and grace as we embrace changes to our habits and our life together.

As the pandemic of COVID-19 evolves, we find ourselves “longing to get back to normal” especially when it comes to our congregational ministries. Be assured that the Session is working to develop a plan to do this safely and effectively. At our May meeting, Session authorized a special committee to develop a plan on how we intend to move forward, drawing on the wisdom from the CDC, state and local authorities, and the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest. The committee is composed of Doug Anderson, Jim Babino, Don Greggain, and Pastor David Webster.

Two principles will guide us: (1) the importance of worshipping together in the same place (2) the importance of the health and well-being of those who gather together, especially the most vulnerable. Different congregations will resume activities at different times depending on the nature of the outbreak in their locale and the kind of membership each has. We may need to do things differently than some other churches, but it is because each is unique in its needs and “at risk” populations.

The best counsel we have been given is (1) be cautious, (2) start small, (3) add activities in gradual, progressive steps, (4) continually evaluate your local health department advisories, and (5) be vigilant. Good stewardship of our church community demands nothing less. All guidelines should be viewed as (a) steps in a process with (b) the need to plan for cycles of reevaluation. There is no “flip the switch” moment when we will be back to normal; no clear-cut answers; and no one-size-fits-all response. There *are* best practices, common sense behaviors and medically advisable actions. As we navigate this new territory, we will learn along the way how to craft a plan that maintains health and wellness while allowing for services to resume.

In developing a plan, we will consider several matters, including, but not limited to our capacity to carry out safely ministry activities, our physical space and lay out, and the at-risk population of the congregation. The clearer the portrait of ourselves as a congregation the better equipped we will be to create a safe plan. It is important to remember, as well, that inasmuch as every congregation differs, so will their plans for “reopening.”

What will reopening mean for First Presbyterian Church of Clarkston, Washington? One level involves *you* - our members - knowing yourself. Talk with your own physician to understand your risks. *Just because you feel “young and energetic” does not mean you are at low risk.* Talk with your physician. Those at greater risk are the following: People over 60 (speak with your physician – not everyone is the same), people with immune compromising conditions, poorly controlled diabetes, pulmonary disease, or transplants. Whether you are in the high risk or low risk group, continue to wash your hands diligently, wear a mask in public, and be mindful of physical distancing. These practices do not guarantee you will not catch a virus (a sneeze sends particles further than six feet), but they go a long way to ensure the health of others.

The second level involves the practices that the session of First Presbyterian Church will put in place to ensure a physical place in which to worship and carry out ministry. This is what the session and the newly formed committee will research in the coming weeks. These two teams will need to examine the many habits we have taken for granted: fellowship time before/after service, passing the peace, the sacraments, singing, passing the offering plate, entering and exiting the church building, bulletins, sanctuary seating, among other parts of our regular life together. They will also need to look at outside groups use of the building, our own Bible studies, and children/youth ministry. In other words, the session and the “Restoration Team” have much to discern. We would ask for your prayers, especially for wisdom, and we ask for your patience.

Nevertheless, despite all these changes, there is much that has not changed. We worship Jesus Christ, who “is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). He has remained faithful to the church, his Body, throughout every generation. The church in every generation faces challenges and trials, and the Lord faithfully sees his people through. We are, as we always have been, the Body of Christ – this will not change, nor will our Lord’s care over us, and nor will our Holy Spirit empowered witness. The Lord Jesus continues to deploy us in our community to give witness to the hope found in his name. This ministry of Christ remains as essential now as always.

We are in this together. We welcome your questions and suggestions. We are grateful for your prayers and your patience.

Faithfully,

Don Greggain MD, on behalf of the Session

Summary of Session Meeting

During its time of study and reflection, Pastor Dave led Session members in a discussion of the question, “What is the Lord teaching our church through this time?” Psalm 130 tells us, “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.” We pray for resilience and patience. We, the church family, are better together. Worship and being a church family are more difficult apart. Some people in the church are not connected electronically. Session members (and everyone) need to be in touch with those in the church family who are isolated and living alone.

1. Session called a meeting of the congregation for June 28 for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons and the new nominating committee.
2. Session appointed a committee of Doug Anderson, Jim Babino and Don Greggain to develop a plan for returning to the church building for worship and ministry. We received extensive guidance from Presbytery Executive Sheryl Kinder-Pyle to help us through this process.
3. Worship and music intern Mitchel Pierce will continue on staff through July. He will be doing pulpit supply preaching and continues to facilitate the Catechumenate study group.
4. Session approved 2 projects –
 - a. Replace 3 glass entry doors into the church to be safer, with easier access including push button handicapped access for 2 of the doors; and
 - b. Remodel church house to prepare for use for Kingdom Kid preschool in the fall.
5. Session discussed steps to take regarding the decrease in giving since Gov. Inslee's "Stay home, stay healthy" order.

Giving in Uncertain Times

Like all churches, we depend on the generosity of our members and friends to minister to those in our church and in our community. Offerings during this COVID-19 crisis continue to support our ministries and our mission commitment to many local non-profit organizations which in turn, help those in need in our community.

The Session is thankful for the financial donations we have received during this uncertain time and recognize the sacrifice of giving. In the interest of keeping the congregation informed, the Session also wants you to know that since mid-March our giving levels are half of our normal levels of giving. If you would like to increase your giving or give for the first time, here are some ways to give:

- *Mail or drop off a check:* Donations may be mailed to Clarkston First Presbyterian Church, 1122 Diagonal, Clarkston WA 99403, Attention: Breeana Miles, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer
- *Online:* Secure on-line giving is available through the church's website. See our website, <http://www.firstpresclarkston.org>
- *Direct transfer from your bank:* Send donations directly from your bank to the church, just as you might pay a bill.
- *Gifts of stocks and income from securities:* The church welcomes your gift of securities and other funds. Contact your financial advisor for help in transferring funds or distributions. Many transfers have tax advantages which benefit you and the church.

We thank God for your generosity and acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God.

We miss you and look forward to a time when we will be together again.

Your Session Members,

Don Poe, Jim Babino, Don Greggain, Lois Devereaux, Christi Vallandigham, and Doug Anderson

Congratulations
Graduates!



- **John Guillotte, Jr.** is graduating from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis with a degree in political science and is being commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy. **Ian Guillotte** is graduating from the University Washington and the Army ROTC with a degree in anthropology and political science and will be commissioned as an officer in the United States Army. John and Ian are the sons of Cheri and John Guillotte.
- **Anna Fedas** is graduating from Whitworth University in music ministry. She was our music and worship intern in the summer of 2019.
- **Pierce Claassen** is graduating from Washington State University (WSU) summa cum laude in microbiology and he will be enrolled at the WSU Elson Floyd College of Medicine. He is the son of Sam Claassen and the late Keith Claassen.
- **Even Currin** graduated magna cum laude from Washington State University in microbiology. He is currently applying to medical school. He is the son of Stephanie and Rich Cuddihy and the grandson of Al and Jeanne Evans.
- **Sami Briney** is graduating with honors from Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in business administration with concentration in accounting. She has accepted a position in the accounting department of Weyerhaeuser Corporation. She is the daughter of Jeff and Sally Briney.
- **Andrew Thompson** is earning a degree in hospitality management from LCSC. He will be looking for positions in hospitality when that industry picks up. **Katie Babino** earned a master's degree from Grand Canyon University in communication with emphasis in education. She continues to work as program supervisor for CTE programs at LCSC and hopes to do college or high school teaching in the future. Katie and Andrew are the children of Scott and Cara Thompson and grandchildren of Nancy Poole.
- **Mason Hurlbert** is graduating from Asotin High School and will be attending Eastern Washington University (EWU) with plans to become a sports statistician. He is the son of Megan Hurlbert and grandson of Chris Reade.
- **Wyatt Auer** is graduating from Clarkston High School. He is interested in the LCSC Diesel Tech program. He is the son of Brian and Janet Auer, and grandson of Mike and Barb Auer.
- **LE Swanson** is graduating from Lewiston High School. She has enlisted in the Navy and will be going to school in the field of nuclear engineering. LE has been very active in several ministries of our church for the past couple of years.

They have all been a blessing to our church family. We pray for God's ongoing guidance for our young people as they continue into their adult lives in Christ.

June

Nate Savolainen	02
Kevin Vogeler	03
Jerry Guptill	07
Megan McKay	07
Cooper Knutson	10
Jackson Webster	11
Elizabeth Greggain	13
Sam Claassen	16
Margo McCrosky	16
Steve Hopkins	27
Anne Greer	28
Bob Hopkins	28
Bill Mannschreck	29

July

Randy Myklebust	01
Bob Williams	02
Noah McKay	03
Zachary Clovis	05
Marie Jackson	08
Dawson Fogleman	16
Jeannie Evans	18
Jim Babino	19
Matthew Zeimantz	22
Luella Schulze	24
Evan Currin	25

August

Jerry Gilbert	03
Sue Clovis	04
Marcus Harwick	05
Molly Williams	09
Dawn Webster	14
Penny Bosley	19
Abigail Auer	19
Nate Reade	25
Lori Loseth	25
Raelyn Urban	29
Emma Williams	30



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mason Hurlbert, class of 2020 of AHS. Mason will receive the Deacon's \$1,000 scholarship his second semester of his freshman year. He plans to attend Eastern Washington University. Mason is the son of Megan Hurlbert and the grandson of Chris Reade. We wish him well on the next chapter of his life.

FINANCIAL

Finances as of April 2020		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 112,004.38	\$ 133,416.16
Expense	\$ 136,808.62	\$ 133,417.92
Inc./Exp.	\$ (24,804.24)	\$ (1.76)



On May 16/20 members of our congregation took part in World Vision’s Global 6km for Water, raising over \$2500 that would be enough to supply a village with fresh clean water for the rest of their lives. With your support, we were a blessing to people in the developing world that we may never meet. Thanks for your support ... read on to find out what it is that World Vision does with this money.

How World Vision Works These water projects run in harmony with our other key areas of development: health, education, food, and economic development. This approach tackles the root causes of poverty, enabling children to experience fullness of life.



Drill Rigs

These trucks traverse great distances to drill up to hundreds of feet underground to tap into water aquifers.



Wells

Hand pumps in the middle of a community allow water to be generated without electricity.



SolarPumps

These panels generate energy from the sun to pull water from pumps, up into storage tanks, and then allow gravity to feed water to various communities



Pipelines

Pipelines transport water from access points and allow for water distribution across hundreds of miles.



Rain Catchments

Roofs and other kinds of catchments collect rainwater into a storage tank for treatment and distribution.



Water Kiosks

From catching rainwater to receiving water from pumps or pipelines, community members come and fill up jugs for a small cost.



Latrines & Handwashing

Sanitation and hygiene are promoted by community leaders and practiced with ventilated, improved latrines and handwashing stations.



Repair Mechanics

Local technicians and members of the water users association are elected to help maintain water projects for long-term sustainability.

We are blessed to be a blessing, and are thankful that even in these times of great economic and health concerns, our community was able to reach outside of our concerns to meet the real needs of others.

Don Greggain, on behalf of the 24 people that walked with us to “be a change for good”

FPC YOUTH NEWS

From Noah & Megan

A few months ago, our community - and many others - had us all distance ourselves socially. For youth group, this has meant canceling all in person bible studies and youth group gatherings. I think this news was a little tough for some of our students who look forward to these events and really rely on them as their source of fellowship. Noah and I have really made an effort to help them still feel connected from home and reassure them that they have people available for support during this time. You can imagine the impact this epidemic might have on high school students who have often felt alone and isolated prior to this and now have to be home with no school, friends, social life, church, ect. Knowing how lonely this can be, our efforts have been directed toward check-ins with the kids a few times a week. We have used Zoom to chat with the kids live, which has been fun. House tours, showing off their quarantine crafts, pet introductions... Really anything that they want to talk and share about. We have been sending out postcards with small notes of encouragement as well. We started a new bible study titled, "Bible Study." We delivered packets for reading and discussion to each student at home and then used our text groups to discuss and share our thoughts. We are currently reading Genesis. Wednesday Pizza Challenges have been a hit! We use our youth group Facebook page to post weekly challenges, including talent show, lip sync/dance to your favorite Christian song, at home workout, Scavenger Hunt, "Teach us something new" videos, and much more. The kids video themselves participating and the winners receive a pizza delivered to their home.

I am proud of our group for leaning on each other during this time. For checking in on each other, even student to student...and for keeping focus on the future and all the fun we will have when we are able to meet again.

Thank you all for your support. Noah and I feel so incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to work from home. We would appreciate your prayers and welcome any ideas you may have to help in the next few months :)

Megan and Noah McKay



Noah: safe driving tips



Espen: how to cut hair



JC: how to cook pancakes & speak the Korean alphabet



Megan: how to make a breakfast burrito



Grace: how to ride a long board

Jennifer: how to give a dog a bath



Children's Ministry

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CLARKSTON



Vacation Bible School 2020: As our community moves into Phase 2 of our state COVID-19 guidelines, I am working on planning a VBS program for later this summer in July or August. Our community will need to be in Phase 4 for this to safely take place. I will keep you informed as we move through the process.

Kingdom Kids Preschool: Registration for Playschool and Preschool for the 2020-2021 school year has begun. We are working on designing a “safe opening” policy to provide your child a safe and healthy environment for learning. You may register your child on the church website www.firstpresclarkston.org



Sunday School: Sunday mornings at 10:00am on facebook we will meet together to sing, read the bible, hear the sermon and connect as we study God's word following the Lectionary A schedule. Bulletins may be printed from the church website under the Children's Ministry section.

WHIRL SUMMER • YEAR A

	Season	Sunday	Date	Lesson Title	Focus Text
🕒	Pentecost	Holy Trinity	6/7/2020	The Great Commission	Matthew 28:16-20
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 11	6/14/2020	Justified by Faith	Romans 5:1-8
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 12	6/21/2020	Freed from Sin	Romans 6:1b-11
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 13	6/28/2020	Whoever Welcomes	Matthew 10:40-42
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 14	7/5/2020	Come to Me	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 15	7/12/2020	Parable of the Sower	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 16	7/19/2020	Children of God	Romans 8:12-25
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 17	7/26/2020	Parables of the Kingdom	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 18	8/2/2020	Feeding the Five Thousand	Matthew 14:13-21
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 19	8/9/2020	Jesus Walks on Water	Matthew 14:22-33
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 20	8/16/2020	The Canaanite Woman's Faith	Matthew 15:21-28
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 21	8/23/2020	Many Members, Many Gifts	Romans 12:1-8
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 22	8/30/2020	Bless your Enemies	Romans 12:9-21
🕒	Pentecost	Lectionary 23	9/6/2020	Love for One Another	Romans 13:8-14

