Worship Time Change!

SUNDAY, September 1st there will only be one service at 10:00 a.m.

We will then switch to our Fall/Winter schedule on September 8th of 8:30 &11:00 a.m. until Memorial Day 2020!

Sue’s Musings – It’s a New Day!

September – school starts – routines get back to “normal,” and we’re ready for a new season at First Presbyterian Church! However there’s nothing “ROUTINE” about our fall schedule! We are embarking on our Oct. 2019 – May 2020 sabbatical season.

What is a sabbatical?

It is a time to step back so that we can rest,
focus on relationships,
and have space to look at who we are, what we’re doing, and where God is calling us.

Why are we doing this?

Because many of you are weary and frazzled by life, and need a break
Because there is a hunger for spiritual connections, even among our own members
Because we want to be mindful about how we are spending our resources (time, money, energy), so that we are responding to the world and our community faithfully and in conversation with God.

Because we believe we have a powerful future ahead of us in this place, and we want to do all we can to live into that in faith, hope and love.

What will it look like? We’re working on that! Here are a few things:

Several of our committees are streamlining things for the sabbatical so they don’t have to meet as often, and can spend more time on building relationships when they do
Christian Education will look different (See the article later in the newsletter)
Our worship committee is going to study some worship resources, which may bear fruit later in the sabbatical that you will see during worship

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We’re adding ONE new thing – a focus on radical hospitality, and we’ve got a mighty team who are going to help us grow in that ministry. Our Shift Task Force will be making the rounds in September, meeting with small groups, to share more details about what we’re trying and why, and to invite you to embrace this sabbatical as we look to the future. If you are already part of a small group (such as our many Bible studies and fellowship groups), we’ll be asking for some time at your next meeting to share more about the sabbatical. We’re also going to be holding two other gatherings that anyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday, Sept. 8, at 10 am during the Sunday School time (see the CE article later)
Wednesday, Sept. 11, after F3 (Potluck fellowship meal at 5:30) – so about 6 pm or so

This is an exciting time, and the story of this time is still being written. Please keep all of our leaders in prayer as they lead us through this process, embrace this opportunity to rest and grow deeper into relationship with each other, and participate!

Pastor Sue
~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~

Sermons Online!

Did you know we post the Sunday sermons on our website? If you miss Sunday, or really want to hear the sermon again, or, better yet, share it with a friend, you can find our sermons at FPCLincoln.org/worship/sermons.
FPChristian Education – Living our Faith Together

By now you’ve heard or read that FPC is taking the upcoming year as an opportunity for rest and hopefully rejuvenation – in other words a Sabbath. The Sabbath day is meant to be a time to reflect and worship wholly on God and rest. But the Sabbath is not strictly for the human being. The Sabbath also applies to our work. In biblical times this was most often reflected in the agricultural practices of the time – every seven years the fields were to be left alone allowing them to “rest” and replenish the soil and nutrients, a practice that continues today in letting the fields go fallow.

Here at FPC were taking this time to rest and rejuvenate as well, but that doesn’t mean we are stopping everything or doing nothing. Faith formation is continual and happens whether there are lots of programs or very few programs. Over the next school year, the Christian Education program will be doing things quite a bit differently, allowing for our teachers and volunteers and opportunity to rest and rejuvenate while still offering intentional faith formation opportunities.

What might this look like? First, we are not stopping the faith formation hour (Sunday School) were just doing it differently. Second, we are going to have a major focus on intergenerational faith formation, learning and sharing together, and third we are still going to provide an opportunity for age appropriate learning. Fourth, this focus will extend to youth fellowship as well. A typical monthly schedule will look like this (the September schedule is a little different due to Labor day and a fifth Sunday)

First Sunday - Forum & Kids/Youth Sunday School
Second Sunday- Potluck Breakfast and Intergenerational Learning
Third Sunday – Traditional style Sunday School with age appropriate classes
Fourth Sunday – Intergenerational Projects and Special events led by various Committees (Ex. Christmas Hymn Sing, Church clean-up project, PDA mission buckets, etc.)

So as you see, “Sunday School” is still happening were just taking this year to provide some new ways of doing “Sunday School” focusing on hospitality, relationships, and faith formation, all the while we continue to look toward the future of FPC and its Christian Education ministry. We hope you will join us on Sept. 8th as we kick-off this new and exciting year in faith formation ministry at FPC.
Faith Formation Hour (Sunday School) – Each Sunday beginning Sept. 15th will also have Activity Time beginning at 9:30 am and Children’s Choir at 9:45 am.
   Sept. 1st – Just One worship service at 10:00 am
   Sept. 8th @ 10:00 am – Christian Education Sunday kick-off with a presentation by the Shift 2.0 Task Force (children will go to the classes during the presentation)
   Sept. 15th –@ 10:00 am – Children, Youth, and Adult Sunday School Classes
   Sept. 22nd - @ 10:00 am – Pot Luck Breakfast, Fellowship, and Sharing (all ages)
   Sept. 29th @ 10:00am - L.O.F.T. Sunday (Living Our Faith Together) – Intergenerational faith formation (all ages).

Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grades):
   Sept. 8th - @ 5:30 pm – Youth Fellowship Kick-off and Parent’s Meeting (Please RSVP your attendance for food preparations)
   Sept. 15th @ 5:30 pm – Youth Fellowship @FPC
   Sept. 22nd @ 5:30 pm – Pizza and Bible at the home of (TBD)
   Sept. 29th @ 5:30 pm – Champions Fun Center (pricing and activities to be determined, church will cover half of cost for activities)

FPC Christian Education Celebration! – join us on Sept. 8th at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall for breakfast and to hear about what’s happening in Christian Education for the 2019-2020 year. There will be a special presentation by the Shift 2.0 Task Force on the upcoming year of rest and renewal. Children will go to the classrooms during the presentation to meet their teachers.

October Forum Series – On October 6th @ 9:45 am in Great Hall, we will be joined once again by Mollie George of the Alzheimer’s Association. This is a different program touching on different topics that any previous presentations from the Alzheimer’s Association. The CE Committee is always looking for interesting topics and speaker for our Forum Series. If there is a topic you’d be interested in or if you have a suggestion for possible speakers, please contact Kris Brammer (dce@fpclincoln.org)
Interested in joining the Adult Choir or Handbell Choir?
Rehearsals will be starting in late August. Open to ages high school and up. Bell choir spots are limited.

Please contact Brian
Gratitude Moment #1 – Sherry Knapp & Stephen Ministry

Over 15 years ago I had a life changing experience here at this church – after becoming a Stephen Minister the first person that I met was a young Mom with a son battling Leukemia. I worried I wasn’t worthy, could I truly be the support that she needed? Who do I think I am – showing up at my first assignment to support a care receiver at one of the worst times of her life – would I make things worse? As we began to meet weekly we could feel God’s arms around both of us. For over three years I was a safe spot where she could say anything that was on her mind during this journey through one of the hardest parts of her life. She had a wonderful family, wise health care providers but I was a piece of her church that promised to stick by her side no matter what came along. We were two Moms who loved our children more than life itself and truly believed God had put us together. We laughed, we cried, we prayed and somewhere along the way I realized I was finding out much more about myself while I was “helping” someone else. In our Stephan Ministry training we were taught that we were not there to fix people – I personally struggle with this – if only I could get out my yellow pad and a great pen there was nothing that can’t be solved. But this is different. Through listening and being a safe confidential spot for someone else the caregiver begins to see how another’s life challenge becomes a learning and loving experience for themselves also.

Part of the Stephen Minister outreach is to meet regularly with the other caregivers. We listen to each other’s stories offering support and helping each of us go back to our care receivers as a strong and stable point of connection. The bonds that have been formed between our group is like no other. Everyone knows that if you belong to a church for a number of years there are times when the disagreements or differences make you wonder if staying is the best option for you or your family. I personally know that these fellow Stephen Ministers, my people, are the reason I am still at this church. How can you walk away from a church family that truly loves you?

In this room today I know there are many of you carrying a load that some days seems too heavy to bear. Please let Pastor Sue or one of our Stephen Ministry team members know so we can help. When Pastor Ray Larson first talked about bring Stephen Ministry to our church, I literally heard a voice in my head that said “you should do this”. At the time I had college age sons, a full time job, a number of other volunteer activities I took part in and logic said I shouldn’t commit to a program that required over 50 hours of training.

But I listened to that little voice and started the training alongside 14 other members of our church. The training seemed stiff and too planned at first. But as we progressed through the different scenarios of what a care receiver may be going through we became an empathetic family of God’s servants. Please consider joining us, we need you. Your spiritual life will be changed as you offer an ear to another in need while learning more about yourself.
Part of my purpose today also is to say thank you – thank you to all who have supported this ministry through their giving. This program would not exist without the generosity of members like you.

Gratitude Moment #2 – Amy Peterson & Stephen Ministry

January 29, 2001 my 2-year-old son, Logan, was diagnosed with Leukemia. Our family was thrown into a scary, overwhelming new world. We were in the hospital for 9 days. We had to learn a whole new medical language. There were new sets of rules for food, social interactions, and our daily routines. We were worried about everything. I was numb for that first week. When we were able to go home, we didn’t have nurses to rely on. We were on our own. I watched my active, happy boy lay on the couch too tired to even watch TV and wonder if this was our new normal. We became part of a club in which no one wants to be a member.

However, it turns out that there were a few members of that club right here at our church. One of those members was Sherry. I knew who Sherry was as part of our church. I even knew her boys from youth group. I never knew that Sherry and her family had already walked the path we were about to walk because her own son also battled cancer. While our whole church family was VERY supportive, caring and giving, Sherry knew our medical staff, she knew about steroids and what they did to a child’s appetite and their temperament. She knew about the ugly side effects and tricks to make them better. When I would tell Sherry how worried I was about his ability, or lack thereof, to fight infections, she could tell me how it was normal, and in fact would probably be even worse. It eased my mind. And when his numbers did drop, just like she told me they would, I was able to take it in stride and not freak out. I worried about our older son, Drew, and how this was affecting him and not wanting him to feel over looked or left out. Sherry was able to relate to that too. Even though Sherry did not add a third child to this chaos, she was certainly supportive, understanding and helpful when we did.

Logan’s treatment plan was more than 3 years long. Then came the really scary part when he went off treatment and we didn’t see the doctors as frequently. Was the cancer going to come back? I think Sherry and I met for 4 years. There was never any discussion of removing that safety net Sherry provided. There was never a time limit set on that support. Logan is now 21, and 6 feet tall. He is a certified EMT and attending college to become paramedic.

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Stephen’s Ministry was a perfect fit for my situation. Our time together was scheduled at weekly intervals at our convenience. This turned out to be so helpful since it allowed me to ask questions or talk about concerns before they grew into a dark cloud over my head. In fact, I didn’t even realize some of them were a concern until we would begin talking and it would pour out. I would never have taken that amount of Sherry’s time if not for the structure of Stephen’s Ministry. I looked forward to our time together. It became two friends getting together for coffee and sharing our family, and our faith. This would not have been possible without your support of Stephen’s Ministry.
I know there are others like me who are walking through very dark waters so please reach out to Sherry and Stephen’s Ministry and thank you for supporting this extremely important work. Your gifts have made this all possible.

Pastor Sue & Friends at First Presbyterian:
A million thanks for supplying the McPhee staff with yummy treats TWO TIMES this week! We are feeling the love and it means the world to us. We so appreciate your community. You are a blessing to us in so many ways. Thank you for helping us kick off the best school year yet!
Peace Chris Boden

Dear Friends at First,
Thank you so much for the warm welcome extended to Harry & I this past Sunday. We are grateful for Pastor Sue’s leadership and support and that of the session in our transition to membership with you.
Prayers of support,
Nancy & Harry Olthoff
Jenny Lee will be preaching at the Fall gathering in September as well as First Presbyterian Church September 15th with a catered lunch to follow the 11 am service.

JyungIn (Jenny) Lee is currently serving as the moderator for Presbyterian Women, PC(USA). She is the founder and executive director of Women Together, Inc, a non-profit organization for spirituality and empowerment of women. Jenny is passionate about building inclusive and hospitable community and empowering women. She is a member of the interfaith group in her hometown, West Windsor, NJ. She has two sons; they live in New York City and in Washington D.C. Jenny lives with her husband and enjoys having brunch date with him on weekends. Jenny is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Presbyterian Women’s Fall Gathering
Homestead Presbytery
Registration form for non - Homestead use
September 13-14, 2019
Calvin Crest, Fremont Nebraska

Print Name ___________________________ Church Name ___________________________
(Please print – this will be on your nametag)
Presbytery ___________________________
Home Town ___________________________
Home Phone ___________________________

Fees: (choose one) Registration fees

Friday evening only – meal (provided by PW officers) and conversation $0.00 ______

Saturday only – breakfast (PW provided) and lunch included $15.00 ______
Both Days – Includes your sleeping room (2 / room) and all meals $65.00 ______

(Let us know of any special needs or accessibility accommodations that you may have)

Total Enclosed $ ____________

To ensure accurate Meal Counts and sleeping room reservations please return by September 1st.

Make checks payable to PWPH.

Mail to:
Joan Berglund
545 S 28th St
Lincoln NE 68510

For more information:
Terri Sherman
402-466-0063
Presbyterian Women are once again collecting school kits! Please donate items if you can in the front office by September 15th and the ladies will take care of the rest!

**School Kits**

Now is the time of year to purchase items for the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance / CWS (Church World Services) school kits when there are great sales. We can get the bags made and everything assembled during the year and have them ready to go next summer.

The following items are needed and can be brought to the church where we will store and assemble them. *(Value $15)*

- 1 pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3-70-count spiral notebooks or tape-bound pads of 8” x 10½” ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets of ruled paper.
  (Do not include filler paper.)
- 1 - 30-centimeter ruler (12”)
- 1 - hand-held pencil sharpener
- 6 - new pencils with erasers
- 1 - large eraser
- 1 - box of 24 crayons
- 1 - cloth bag, 12” x 14” to 14”x 17” finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles (pattern available).

Please, do not use reusable shopping bags or backpacks. Pack all items in the cloth bag.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

— *Presbyterian Women*
A large number of new children's books are available in the FPC Library.

You will find something to catch the imagination of the young reader in your house, or to read with a grandchild or any special young person.

September is National Literacy Month. Celebrate by reading books from the FPC Library.

The PW generously donated funds to purchase books from the 2019-2020 PW Reading List.

In September, find these great books available for checkout:

- **Courage in a White Coat**
  By Mary Schwaner

- **The Kentucky Brothers Series**
  (3 books) by Wanda Brunstetter

- **Jan’s Story** by Barry Petersen

The FPC Library has had many books get checked out over the summer. Great – we love that! But we also like to see them come back....
If you have library books that have been checked out for more than 3 months, please return them, & get more!
Flowers, Greeters & Coffee Hosts

With the fall session of Church beginning, we are again looking for greeters and coffee hosts. A sign-up sheet is on the banquet table beside the east entrance of the Sanctuary. Please sign up to Greet and/or be a Coffee Host. There is also a sign-up sheet to donate flowers for Great Hall and the Sanctuary.

Questions about Greeters and Flowers can be addressed to Nancy Janike at 402-489-6779. LeAnn Hammar will answer questions regarding Coffee Hosts at 402-421-3136.

Thank you for serving your church.

March for Freedom!

Vena Alesio is participating in the Walk for Freedom Against Sex Trafficking on October 6 at 1pm. If you wish to join her and make a First Presbyterian Church team, please email her at venabeth4nu@gmail.com.

The Flyleaf Book Club ...

Will meet on We will be reading Where the Crawdads Sing for our September 20 meeting.

New members are always welcome!
Don’t Forget!
While your on vacation you can still make your contributions by text.
It’s easy, text MissionPossible to 73256. This helps your church as well as you!

If you want to set up regular monthly auto payments, contact Carrie in the front office to get a Realm invite and she will e-mail that over to you and then walk you through the process.

Things they are a changing!
If you have called into the office in the last couple of weeks you may have noticed some growing pains as we get used to our new phone system. It is an on-going process, one that has been much needed and welcomed. But not without some growing pains. There will be some dropped calls, some oops calls and we, mainly me, do apologize as we get used to how these new phones work!

But, we do hope that in the next couple of weeks things smooth out and are much better as far as transfers and voicemails go.
Please also note on the back of the newsletter there are also new extensions for voicemails for when you call into the office!

Thank you all for your patience!
Carrie

First Report Deadline for October!

Septembers’ First Report Deadline is September 16th. Anything turned in after that date may not get included in the newsletter. This is to allow for time for editing, printing and mailing the newsletter to our members.
Thank you for getting your information to us from the various committee’s, groups and activities within the church!
Please notify the church office of any name, address, email, and/or telephone changes.

Outside Classes and Programs @ FPC:

- Men’s AA - Mondays
- Women’s AA - Tuesdays
- Big Book Bunch AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays
- El Centro Zumba Class - Tuesday and Friday
- Lincoln Literacy - Tuesday and Wednesday
- SCC ESL - Monday through Thursday
- Flyleaf Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

At FPC, we warmly welcome all groups and organizations that provide needed services for members of our community.