

Mason First Presbyterian Church



The **CORNERSTONE**

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19-20

May 2023

The Calling of the Church (Part 6)

The Notes of the Reformed Church

Where Christ is, there is the true Church. Since the earliest days of the Reformation, Reformed Christians have marked the presence of the true Church wherever:

the Word of God is truly preached and heard,
the Sacraments are rightly administered, and
ecclesiastical discipline is uprightly ministered.

In our own time, we affirm that, in the power of the Spirit, the Church is faithful to the mission of Christ as it:

Proclaims and hears the Word of God,
responding to the promise of God's new creation in Christ, and
inviting all people to participate in that new creation;

Administers and receives the Sacraments,
welcoming those who are being engrafted into Christ,
bearing witness to Christ's saving death and resurrection,
anticipating the heavenly banquet that is to come, and
committing itself in the present to solidarity with the marginalized and the hungry; and

Nurtures a covenant community of disciples of Christ,
living in the strength of God's promise and
giving itself in service to God's mission.

*from The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
"The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity"*

Session Synopsis

Must be spring is here, Session again considered and endorsed the special beverage license for the annual Sun Dried Music Festival. The endorsement is required of all schools and churches within 500 feet of a special beverage event (beer tent).

The Clerk of Session reported that the minutes and rolls of 2022 were approved by Presbytery. The annual review is conducted by other clerks of area Presbyterian churches.

The Board of Deacons delivered 19 Easter baskets to shut-in church members and friends.

Pastor Bill reported five new members from the recent Explorer Classes. Bill and Sandy Leutscher, Jane Hamelink and Ron Dlouhy, and Susan Chien were received into church membership during the April 23rd worship service after acceptance at a morning special meeting of the Session. Coming up in May will be the reception for up to seven confirmands (teens) that have been preparing for church membership. The Order of the Eastern Stars is planning to visit the May 21st worship service to fulfill the sorority's faith tradition. Session adjusted the September meeting schedule to September 28th to accommodate Pastor Bill's participation in the September 15-25th mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation.

The Spiritual Growth Committee has been actively preparing for the July 11-13th community Vacation Bible School involving the youth from First Presbyterian, Mason First United Methodist, St. James Catholic, and All Saints Lutheran churches. The teen youth have been periodically engaging in mission outreach for Lansing homeless by preparing a Saturday Morning Breakfast at a downtown Lansing parking lot. The congregation can witness the presentation of youth Bibles yet this spring during a worship service on May 14. Wonderful Wednesday activities have been running smoothly with good youth participation. The youth are especially enjoying their time sharing with Pastor Bill.

The Administration Committee is monitoring utility expenses. There has been overlapping communication expenses during the transition of internet and phone services from Verizon to WOW and AT&T to Z-Solutions. Other utilities have experienced rate increases greater than anticipated during budgeting or are subject to seasonal fluctuations. The committee will be encouraging Z-Solutions and WOW to complete the transition to underground cable service to allow removing the temporary service from the backyard tree. The committee will be reviewing cleaning service tasks to address the concerns expressed for dust and cobwebs here and there. The committee reported a successful spring yard clean up.

The Worship & Music committee is seeking a volunteer(s) to make sure the Sanctuary is kept neat and tidy. The cleaning service handles vacuuming, dusting, and dumping the trash cans. Returning Bibles, hymnals, and kiddie bags to their proper place and properly disposing of the service bulletins is not their responsibility. It is helpful when people clean up after themselves, but a volunteer to oversee the Sanctuary would be welcome.

Session approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee to allocate up to \$7,000 for 2023 Scholarships. With only a \$300+ surplus budget balance, committees were alerted to closely monitor budgeted expenses for the upcoming months.

Parish Life is preparing for the Spring Rummage sale June 1-2nd.

The Security Team is reviewing security policies and staffing especially for church activities other than Sunday worship. More Team members will likely be needed to meet security needs for other events.

The Personnel Committee reported a successful and informative annual evaluation of the church Office Manager Sheren Wright. This coming month the committee is scheduling the evaluation of Organist and Choir Accompanist Feng Kang. Session approved Personnel Committee recommended changes to the Child Protection Policy and to the Parish Associate position description, and approved an agreement with Rev. Dr. James Hegedus to serve in that position.

Yet to come this summer is the annual gathering of the Session and the Board of Deacons.

Bruce Archer
Clerk of Session

welcome

to our church family

Welcome to our new Parish Associate, Jim Hegedus!

At its April meeting, Session approved a formal arrangement with Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus to preach for us approximately once a month, to help alleviate some of the pressure on Bill and to provide additional pastoral leadership for our congregation. Jim has already preached for us several times since he retired at the end of 2021, and the congregation has responded very favorably. Nobody can replace the beloved Fred Graham, our former Parish Associate who passed away a few years ago, but we are delighted to formally welcome Jim to this new relationship. His first day with us in his new capacity will be May 21.

Jim earned his Doctor of Ministry degree in Parish Revitalization from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He has been married to Kris, a practicing psychologist, for nearly 33 years. Together they have two grown and recently married children, Alex, who has a PhD in Space Sciences and Scientific Computing from the University of Michigan and is a research scientist at Stanford Research Institute in Ann Arbor, and Stephanie, who earned a Master of Flute Performance at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Stephanie served as Music Administrator at the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church and is now living in Short Hills, New Jersey teaching flute and performing for the Flint Symphony.

Jim and Kris have 3 cats! He is recently retired having served at Jackson's First Presbyterian Church for 22 years. Jim hikes, plays golf badly, plays the piano and ukulele for fun, and is an accomplished home-brewer who likes to share with others!

Parish Life

Birthdays in May

Debbie Markiewicz	5/01
Barb VanDyke	5/03
Mary Ozee	5/06
Camille Subject	5/06
Kathleen Miihlbach	5/07
Lyle Brockman	5/09
Judy Caswell	5/11
Lori Filka	5/17
Leah Harkness	5/21
Jo Hammond	5/24
Mary Schrock	5/26
Sam Pinches	5/27
Diane DeVoe	5/28
Kelly Trout	5/28

Please bring any items for the Rummage Sale to the Conference Room next to the Spiritual Growth Office. The dates for this year's sale are June 1st and 2nd.

Thank you!

Ladies! Thank you again for your very generous donation to the Mason Promise Scholarship.

You have been behind the program since the beginning - 18 years ago!

I can't imagine how much pie crust it takes to make \$2,000!

Shireen Luther - Mason Promise Scholarship

Mission

Our Church's Mission Dollars At Work

The Mission Committee's allocations for March:

Advent House Lunches	\$874.53
General Assembly	123.92
Synod of the Covenant	<u>50.42</u>
March Total	\$1,048.87

Deacons

With your generous donations, we were able to donate 187 pounds of food to the Mason Food Bank in April! Thank you!!!

We had the pleasure of sharing the joy of Easter with several of our members needing some special love and care. 18 Easter Baskets, filled with fruit, candy, cookies, snacks, flowers, cards, and lots of love, were delivered to them. Our sanctuary was filled with 10 lilies, 12 tulips, and 7 daffodils on Easter morning in honor and memory of loved one. Beautiful!

There are many in our church family in need of our prayers, love, and support. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Donna Hujsak

Spiritual Growth

Important dates to remember

April 29 th	Family Game Night
May 7 th	Scholarship Applications Due
May 10 th	Last Wonderful Wednesday
May 14 th	Bible Presentation
May 21 st	Confirmation Celebration Last Sunday School
June 4 th	Graduation Sunday

Vacation Bible School Summer 2023 !!!!

June 11th, 12th, and 13th

HERO HOTLINE

Our team of heroes will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero handbook - the Bible - to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us where they are and with the whole world.



*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and
be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6.24-26

Find the latest, up-to-date church calendar at masonpresbyterian.org

**WORSHIP AT
MASON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

In-Person and Livestreaming at 10:00 am each Sunday
Audio, video, and printed worship is online at masonpresbyterian.org

Bulletin Submissions are due by 9:00am every Monday. Submissions for *The Cornerstone* are due by noon on the Monday following the Session meeting. We are now attempting to publish the newsletter the week following Session. Announcements for Sunday and Living Stones are due by noon on Wednesday. Please be prompt. Late submissions may not be honored.

The
CORNERSTONE

Mason First Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS - All Members

PASTOR - Rev. Bill Pinches

PARISH ASSOCIATE - Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

PASTOR EMERITUS - Rev. Charlie Herrick

SPIRITUAL GROWTH DIRECTOR - Lori Filka

OFFICE MANAGER - Sheren Wright

SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR & BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR -
Deb Melse

CHORAL ACCOMPANIST & ORGANIST - Feng Kang

OFFICE ASSISTANT - Nancy Sue MacDonald

SEXTON - Eric VanDyke

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR -
Michelle Mackey

ELDERS:

2023 - Bruce Archer, Tim Hammond,
Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.

2024 - Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport,
Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.

2025 - Doreen Chapman, Anita Cote,
Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.

Clerk: Bruce Archer.

DEACONS:

2023 - Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock,
Steve VanDyke.

2024 - Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen,
Camille Subject.

2025 - Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches,
Tom Seely.

Moderator Pro Tem: Lisa Castle

*"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV

