

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

August 2023

Openness to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit (Part 1)

Continuity and Change

The presbyterian form of government set forth in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is grounded in Scripture and built around the marks of the true Church. It is in all things subject to the Lord of the Church. In the power of the Spirit, Jesus Christ draws worshiping communities and individual believers into the sovereign activity of the triune God at all times and places. As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him. United with Christ in the power of the Spirit, the Church seeks “not [to] be conformed to this world, but [to] be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds, so that [we] may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:2).

Ecumenicity

The presbyterian system of government in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is established in light of Scripture but is not regarded as essential for the existence of the Christian Church nor required of all Christians.

Unity in Diversity

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:27-29).

The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

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

Worship & Music

August 2023 Worship Calendar

- August 6** Tenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Communion
August 13 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus preaching
August 20 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Two-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering

On Bill's Bookshelf

Bill tries to spend some time in the early morning most every day for his own spiritual development and personal growth. Here is some of what he has been reading recently....

The Daily Office: Morning and Evening Prayer

Old Testament: Deuteronomy, 1 Samuel

Apocrypha: Ecclesiasticus (a.k.a. The Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach)

New Testament: Matthew, Luke, Acts, 2 Corinthians

The Gospel of Matthew, in the original Greek (slowly!)

Clement of Rome: The First and Second Letters to the Corinthians (late 1st century)

Ignatius of Antioch: The Letters to the Ephesians, Magnesians, Trallians, Romans, Philadelphians, Smyrnaeans, and to Polycarp (early 2nd century)

Polycarp: The Letter to the Philippians (early 2nd century)

anonymous: The Martyrdom of Polycarp (early 2nd century)

anonymous: The Didache (a.k.a. The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) (2nd century)

Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux as told through John G. Neihardt

Rest Is Resistance: A Manifesto by Tricia Hersey

Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky with Connie Burk



Mission

Our Church's Mission Dollars At Work

The Mission Committee's allocations for May and June:

May

Advent House Lunches - \$708.73
 General Assembly mission - \$123.92
 Mason Fire Department (hoods and garden) - \$700.00
 Youth Homeless Outreach - \$262.16
 Synod of the Covenant mission - \$50.42

May total: \$1,845.23

June

Advent House Lunches - \$245.88
 General Assembly mission - \$123.92
 Presbyterian Disaster Agency (Ukraine relief) - \$500.00
 Mason Community Services (toiletries) - \$100.00
 Synod of the Covenant mission - \$50.42

June total: \$1,020.22

The Mission Committee is seeking to assist St. Vincent Refugee Services, which is critically in need of sauce pans, bath towels, hangers, and twin or full blankets. Please bring donations to the conference room (downstairs, next to the Spiritual Growth Office) by Sept. 1. St. Vincent's also needs large items like sofas, loveseats, kitchen tables, and chairs, but please do not bring those to church. Instead, go to www.stvcc.org or call directly 517-323-4734 ext. 1050 to arrange for a pickup. Thank you!

Finance

Financial Report through June 2023	
General Fund Balance January 1, 2023	0
Income through June	\$185,985
Expenses through June	\$179,082
Ending Balance (6/30/23)	\$ 6,903

General Fund Balance 6/30/23	\$ 6,903	
Revolving Accounts Balance	65,652	Anticipated pledged income through June
Reserve Accounts	85,408	\$146,826
Investments as of 6/30/23	492,740	Actual pledged income through June
Net Financial Position (6/30/23)	\$ 650,703	\$134,161

Parish Life

Birthdays in August

Richard Abbott	8/01	Sharon Ambrose	8/18
Jacob Barber	8/02	Suzanne Riley	8/22
Kathy Oesterle	8/02	John Castle	8/23
Barry Chapman	8/03	Eva Schlenner	8/23
Sandy Leutscher	8/05	Anne Fett	8/25
Jasmine Leffew	8/13	Lucy Simons	8/27
Ralph Taggart	8/13	Donna Hujsak	8/28
Julie Dart	8/17	Steve VanDyke	8/31

Deacons

The Harvest Table is set up in the Memorial Room and ready for your homegrown produce to share each Sunday. Bring in what you can and take what you need. Donations are welcome.

The annual Back-to-School project is underway and happening on August 12. This year we are partnering with the Mason Methodist Church for the Mason Bank-to-School Jubilee, and will be helping students in need with new school clothing, shoes, backpacks, and general school supplies. At the Jubilee on August 12, each child will get a backpack with an outfit, underwear, shoes, and a Mason Bulldogs T-shirt. The event will also include a hot dog lunch for families, face painting, children's haircuts, etc. Mason Community Services will also be open during the Jubilee, and parents will be encouraged to check it out for gently used clothing and shoes for the entire family. Below is a list of items needed by students & teachers. **Deadline for drop off is August 1!**

boxes of facial tissue
pencils (pre-sharpened are great!)
Ticonderoga brand pencils
glue bottles
glue sticks
washable markers
fine-tip markers
crayons
Expo brand dry-erase markers
skinny, black Expo dry-erase markers
gallon Ziploc-type bags

sandwich Ziploc-type bags
snack-size Ziploc-type bags
hand sanitizer
sanitizing wipes
paper towel rolls
pocket folders
wide-ruled spiral notebooks
scissors
sticky notes
chunky erasers
pencil box

highlighters
pens
Band-Aids
colored pencils

Monetary donations are always appreciated, if you'd rather donate that way, rather than going shopping.

The Coats For Kids Drive is also on the schedule this fall. This annual community project collects and distributes warm winter coats, hats, gloves, boots, and scarves to children and those in need. All sizes are needed, especially infant and toddler coats. Your donations of items can be dropped off at the church any time. Monetary donations can be made directly to the church, with Coats For Kids noted in the memo line.

THANK YOU! Donna Hujsak

Spiritual Growth

September 13th—Wonderful Wednesday program begins!

Youth of all school ages are welcome to come following dismissal from school. As per usual, there will be snacks and recreation when the youth first arrive followed by a small lesson and craft. This year we will continue to have “Storytime with Pastor Bill!” This has become a great HIT over the last two years. Much of the work that goes into our various youth mission projects also takes place during the time together on Wednesdays.

In many ways, the midweek youth program’s philosophy has been a blessing to our church family for over 20 years. We provide a space and the tools necessary to build-up the trusting friendships between our growing group of young believers in Jesus Christ. Sunday.....to the following Sunday.... is a LONG time no matter what your age. Youth need to feel God’s love and the powerful, trusting friendships they have made at church – midweek. The interactions between multi-aged youth is wonderful to watch as they help each other grow.

Please let Lori know if you need assistance with transportation.

September 17th –Sunday School begins!

The Sunday school classes will take place during the traditional Kid’s church time- during the actual worship service.

There will be 2 classrooms divided by age groups:

Lori Filka will be teaching the younger youth from ages K-5th grade, and Sarah Fay-Koutz will be teaching middle/high school.

More information will be coming directly to the parents regarding Sunday school.

FAMILY CAMP AT GREENWOOD – September 8th-10th

Please sign-up for the annual fun event at everyone’s favorite camp!!!

This year there will be new youth and adult games, youth and adult crafts, and a small Bible study lesson led by Michelle Mackey. Or just relax on the deck and visit with friends. **The cost of the camp is \$10.00/adult and \$5.00/youth – this includes cabin rental and food.**

Contact Sarah Fay-Koutz, Lisa Castle, or Lori Filka for more information.

Join us for this decades long annual event at Camp Greenwood!!!



*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 on Facebook and YouTube 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.

