

Mason First Presbyterian Church

The **CORNERSTONE**



October 2023

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

Principles of Presbyterian Government (Part 1)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaffirms, within the context of its commitment to the Church universal, a special commitment to basic principles of Presbyterian polity:

One Church

The particular congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) wherever they are, taken collectively, constitute one church, called the church.

Governed by Presbyters

This church shall be governed by presbyters, that is, ruling elders and teaching elders (also called ministers of the Word and Sacrament). Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and guide in its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament shall be committed in all their work to teaching the faith in word and in deed and equipping the people of God for their ministry and witness.

Gathered in Councils

These presbyters shall come together in councils in regular gradation. These councils are sessions, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly. All councils of the church are united by the nature of the church and share with one another responsibilities, rights, and powers as provided in this Constitution. The councils are distinct, but have such mutual relations that the act of one of them is the act of the whole church performed by it through the appropriate council. The larger part of the church, or a representation thereof, shall govern the smaller.

Seek and Represent the Will of Christ

Presbyters are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.

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



„ Celebrate Our Heritage

Worship & Music

October 2023 Worship Calendar

- October 1 **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost** ~ World Communion Sunday
Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus preaching
- October 8 **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
- October 15 **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost** ~ Children's Sermon
- October 22 **Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**
- October 29 **Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost** ~ Two-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering

Remembrance Sunday November 5th, 2023

This year, on November 5th, we will remember church members, family, and friends who passed away between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023. Names of individuals you have known and loved will be printed in the bulletin and honored during the service. It is our way of acknowledging the people who carried the message of the cross and resurrection through life and death.

Please provide the names of individuals who you would like to have remembered:

Your name and phone number

*Thank you for returning your list to the office
before October 22nd*

Finance

A few words from your Finance Committee – Preparing for 2024 is underway!

October is the month when our members and friends are asked to consider their financial commitment for the next year and to return their pledge card **no later than the last Sunday in October**. Pledged income comprises about 86% of the sources of revenue supporting the Church’s General Operating Budget, so knowing this number is vitally important in developing it!

Your commitment to financially support your church in 2024 is critical, as your Session begins developing the spending plan for the next year. Our current annual operations budget is approximately \$340,000. 67% of that goes to support the dedicated people who have been chosen to direct and assist us, and most of the remainder (20%) goes to keeping our church building open and functioning. The remaining 13% – in addition to the donations to the many projects spearheaded by our Board of Deacons – goes to help those in need in our community and elsewhere. Our 68 pledges for this year provided us with \$294,000, or 86% of the income supporting this budget. Looking forward, inflationary pressures will increase the amount of funds needed to just continue what we are currently doing. And there is no doubt that we could do more!

It is our life in and our commitment to our church which will be of immense help in following the two commandments which guide our life – LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF!

We will be discussing the specifics of church finances and the importance of your commitment at the Wednesday night dinner on October 11, and all are welcome. If anyone has questions about the importance of your financial commitment, please contact me, any member of the Session or Pastor Bill Pinches.

Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment for the next year and return your pledge card as soon as possible, but no later than Sunday, October 29. If you have not received a pledge card by October 10, please contact the church. Extra cards will be available outside the office.

Thanks! Jerry Ambrose, Chair, Finance Committee (517-230-9793; gambrose49@gmail.com)

Financial Report through August 2023	
General Fund Balance January 1, 2023	0
Income through August	\$244,651
Expenses through August	\$228,622
Ending Balance (8/31/23)	\$16,029

General Fund Balance 8/31/23	\$ 16,029	Anticipated pledged income through August
Revolving Accounts Balance	59,232	\$195,768
Reserve Accounts	81,953	Actual pledged income through August
Investments as of 6/30/23	492,740	\$192,116
Net Financial Position (8/31/23)	\$ 649,954	

Deacons

Thanks to your generosity, we delivered 247 pounds of food to the Mason Food Bank in September! We have a new list of items needed, including:

boxed stuffing
baked beans
canned pumpkin
canned peas
canned corn

hearty soups
mac n' cheese
peanut butter
jelly

Items can be brought to the church and put on the table in the Memorial Room. Thank you again for your big hearts and generosity.

Our church is hosting the annual CROP Walk, in partnership with All Saints Lutheran Church, on Sunday, October 8. Registration will be at 1pm and the Walk at 2pm. You can support the Walk by walking and/or by making a financial contribution. Please see Lisa Castle if you would like to walk. Checks can be made out to the church with CWS-CROP on the memo line.

The Coats For Kids Drive is October 21. This annual community project collects and distributes warm winter coats, hats, gloves, boots, sweaters, and scarves to children and those in need. The deadline for donations is October 15 and 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.

Donna Hujak - Board of Deacons Secretary



Parish Life

Birthdays in October

Kurt Immekus	10/02	Linda Peterson	10/15
Matthew McGonigal	10/04	Sam VanDyke	10/17
Nicholas Trout	10/04	Tim Caswell	10/22
Sarah Fay-Koutz	10/06	Hope Bartlett	10/25
Chloë Caltrider	10/09	Kate Barber	10/29
Kaitlyn Caltrider	10/09	Erin McGonigal	10/29
Doreen Chapman	10/14	Bill Pinches	10/30
Mary Garland Jackson	10/15	Tyler Harkness	10/31

The fall Rummage Sale will be October 26 & 27th.
Please bring your gently used items to the
conference room downstairs.



Mason First
Presbyterian Church
Directory
September 2023

Copies of the church Membership Directory are available at each church entrance. This directory contains contact information for all Members and Friends who have shared that information with us and is generated by our membership software. If there's a change in your address or phone number, please let the office know and we'll list the change in *The Cornerstone* so that people can correct their own directory. We'll print a new one each year or as needed.

There are no pictures in this directory, but if there's someone out there that can figure out how to take and then publish an in-house pictorial, the office would love to hear from them!

BSA Troop 763 is now taking orders for 24" fresh fir wreaths at \$25 each. Payment is expected upon delivery or as soon thereafter. Delivery is the week of Thanksgiving to enjoy throughout the entire holiday season. The sale will continue as long as this year's limited supply lasts. Place your order at the office bulletin board, or by contacting Andrew Mackey, Luke Mackey, or Bruce Archer. Please make your checks payable to BSA Troop 763.

Spiritual Growth

Youth Programs

Youth Sunday School

Sunday school for youth of all ages will be held during the worship service from 10:20am-11:00am. Youth are dismissed from the sanctuary after the Lord's Prayer. They enjoy a light snack together in the education room and then start Sunday school according to their age group:

Pre-K through 5th grade - Following their third-year rotational curriculum, we will be using Cokebury's, "*Celebrate Wonder-all ages.*" We will be studying Solomon to start the school year. Through play, Bible exploration, and faith conversations the goal of Celebrate Wonder is to deepen faith and grow in spiritual identity as children of God.

Middle and High School - The Cokesbury curriculum being utilized is entitled "*Groove*" and the topic is "Grace." The youth are working on lessons regarding Grace for themselves, each other, and the greater community. They are starting with what it means to be empathetic, as well as what it looks like to be their best selves. They will also be exploring personal values, and how they intersect with our Christian beliefs. This group of students shares a special bond, and a love for service.

Middle & High School Fellowship

*Take the time to check-out the downstairs youth room. Our youth group tie-dyed some cool wall hangings.

Mark your calendars.....

October 15th following worship pumpkins and spooks for all youth.....more information to follow.....

Wonderful Wednesday!

Our mid-week program for youth of all ages has started and is well attended. This weekly afterschool event allows our youth to gather, socialize, and learn in a casual setting. A biblical/spiritual lesson is taught each week through games, play, food, crafts, socializing, and a special lesson from Pastor Bill! The Wednesday night church family dinner at 6pm is the perfect way to end our Wonderful Wednesday.

Seasonal projects are underway! Also, the youth will be making new 2-cents a meal containers to be made available to the congregation.

Please contact Lori Filka if you have questions or need assistance with transportation.

Adult Programs

Adult After Worship Discussion Group

Please join us for an Adult Discussion Time after worship from 11:20am-12:00pm in the library. We are continuing the video series "The Chosen" back by popular demand this Fall. Bring your coffee and treat and join us.

Noon Prayer Service in the Chapel

Join us for a 20-minute, Spirit-filled guided prayer session each week in the downstairs chapel.

*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.

2024 - Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen,
Camille Subject.

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

Moderator Pro Tem: Lisa Castle

