

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 2026

Worship on the Lord's Day: Sacrament

(Continuing a discussion of various elements in the worship service)

Theology of the Lord's Supper [part 2]

When we gather at the Lord's Supper the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites with the Church in every time and place. We join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We reaffirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world.

The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation, when appropriate, to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended.

Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated as a regular part of the Service for the Lord's Day, preceded by the proclamation of the Word, in the gathering of the people of God. When local circumstances call for the Lord's Supper to be celebrated less frequently, the session may approve other schedules for celebration, in no case less than quarterly. If the Lord's Supper is celebrated less frequently than on each Lord's Day, public notice is to be given at least one week in advance so that all may prepare to receive the Sacrament.

Responsibility for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be authorized by the session and administered by a minister of the Word and Sacrament. It is appropriate that a presbytery authorize and train ruling elders to administer the Lord's Supper in the event of the absence of pastors. The session may authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper at events other than the Service for the Lord's Day, including services of Christian marriage, ordination and installation, services of wholeness, ministry to the sick, and services of witness to the resurrection. At all such events, the Word is to be read and proclaimed. When the Lord's Supper takes place apart from public worship, the congregation shall be represented by one or more members.

A council may authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper in certain contexts beyond the congregational setting, such as hospitals, prisons, schools, military bases, or other ministry settings.

— from The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), "Directory for Worship"

(continued next month)

Session Synopsis

Session renewed the endorsement for a Special Beverage License that permits the serving of beer within 500 feet of the church during the annual Sun Dried Festival in August.

Pastor Bill reported the sharing of Holy Week with Spring Break this year may have resulted in the slight decline in attendance at Holy Week services compared to 2025. Office Manager Jessica is expected to return to duty in May. Pastor Bill also reported vacationing from April 25-May 5 and a study leave May 29-June 6 exploring Lakota culture and history at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Session approved the recommendation of the Spiritual Growth Committee to appoint Deb Shellenbarger and Camille Subject to the Scholarship Commission.

Session approved the Finance Committee's recommended changes to the policy on Receipt and Disbursement of Church Funds addressing specific revolving accounts. The committee also determined \$6,800 is available from the invested Scholarship Fund returns and Scholarship revolving account donations. The Scholarship Commission is anticipating the need for \$10,000 this year. Session supported the recommendation to withdraw up to \$3,200 from the Scholarship Investment Fund, if needed based on the number of applicants, size of each scholarship, and continuing flow of scholarship donations.

The Parish Life Committee is preparing to support the Explorer's Class meeting Sundays after worship until the end of May. The prospective new members will be received later in May or early June. The last Wednesday Night Dinner will be May 13th.

The Personnel Committee is reviewing the Employee Handbook. The annual performance review for Choir Accompanist Ashlyn is being rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts.

The Spiritual Growth Committee reported at least 18 youth have signed up for Camp Greenwood this summer, supported by a donation that covers the camp fees. The June 7th worship Service will include honoring 5 high school graduates from the church families.

The Administration Committee is addressing the leaks of the Choir Room flat roof. The \$7,200 for the roof repairs will be supported from the Webb Fund.

Bruce F Archer
Clerk of Session



Presbyterian Social Witness: Interreligious Relationships (Part 2)

This is the 16th part of a series exploring different aspects of our church's social witness policy.

The PC(USA) works through the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, as well as other partners, to encourage relationships across religious traditions.

4. Jerusalem 3, 2, 1: Three Faiths, Two Peoples, One Human Family (2022)

This resolution focuses on the importance of the city of Jerusalem and fulfills a directive of the 223rd General Assembly (2018). It includes a statement of concern entitled "For the Peace of Jerusalem" that speaks to recent U.S. policy changes such as the move of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as well as legal and political changes in Israel including continued annexation, denial of human rights and increased surveillance that are expressions of exclusivism, absolutism, ethno-nationalism and racism. The resolution also includes recommendations regarding Jerusalem as well as background material and documentation for study.

<https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/0019-CPJ-ACSWP-Jerusalem-3-2-1.pdf> (9 pages)

5. Denouncing Antisemitism and Islamophobia (2022)

The General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (GACEIR) created this study document, which was approved by the General Assembly in 2022. The document marks the next step in a multi-year journey that began in 2018. Moved beyond tears and inspired to action, the GACEIR engaged in crafting this document after the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue, in Pittsburgh.

https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/pcusa_on_antisemitism_and_islamophobia.pdf (28 pages)

6. Confronting White Christian Nationalism: Frequently Asked Questions and a Liturgy (2025)

This brief document includes a short description of what Christian nationalism is, how it undermines Christianity and the church, and how it harms people of other faiths and people of color. The document also includes a liturgy that can be used in worship.

https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/Final_FAQs_liturgy_XN_Nationalism_GACEIR_2025.pdf (2 pages)



I would encourage you to pick one or more of these documents to read and study.

Spiritual Growth

Children’s Sunday School

The lessons for springtime revolve around the “Wisdom” of Jesus, including The Lord’s Prayer, The Birds in the Sky, The Golden Rule and The Two Houses. We will also be reviewing The Ten Commandments. These lessons will take us to the end of the school year.

Wonderful Wednesday

We use some of our time on Wednesday to follow-up on the recent Sunday school lessons, and include kids that might not have been at church on the previous Sunday. The youth have been making springtime crafts, including Mother’s and Father’s Day gifts.

Youth Fellowship

The teens are using a book of devotional readings, reflections and questions entitled “Come and See, your invitation to a radical encounter with Jesus” by Shannon T.L. Kearns. This book tackles topics of “fairness, justice, inclusion, friendship, doing the right thing and care for community.

Important Dates

Bible presentation and teacher appreciation will be May 10th.

Mark your calendars for our summertime Vacation Bible School July 13-16. We again are joining several Mason churches to combine our efforts, and to allow youth to interact with peers from other churches.

The last Wonderful Wednesday is May 13th.

The last Sunday School is May 17th.



Parish Life

Birthdays in May

Debbie Markiewicz	5/1	Evelyn Tayong	5/21
Barb VanDyke	5/3	Jo Hammond	5/24
Mary Ozee	5/6	Mary Schrock	5/26
Camille Subject	5/6	Sam Pinches	5/27
Lyle Brockman	5/9	Diane DeVoe	5/28
Judy Caswell	5/11	Sally Hughes	5/28
Lori Filka	5/17	Kelly Trout	5/28
Leah Harkness	5/21	Ruby Simons	5/29

Bridge Builders

Please plan to join us after service on Sunday, May 31, 2026 for the second Safe Space discussion, hosted by your Bridge Builders for Racial Atonement task force. The topic for this discussion will be “How have racial relations changed in your lifetime?” We are again fortunate to have our Presbytery of Lake Michigan Executive Presbyter, Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence as the moderator of the discussion. She will help ensure an environment with specific ground rules in which each individual is free to express themselves respectfully – everyone will be heard equally. Each speaker will be given 5 minutes to present their personal story. And there is no pressure to speak, you are welcome to simply come and listen to others. We expect the session to last about 90 minutes.

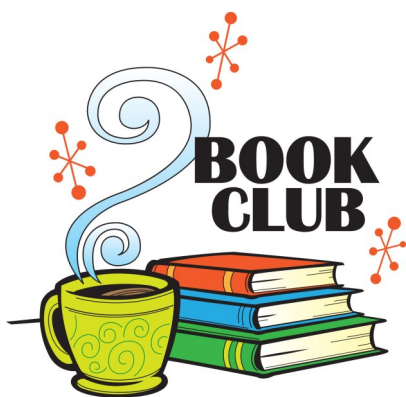
If you were unable to join our first discussion, when we addressed the question “When you were growing up, what did you learn from your family, school, or church about race and racism?”, please plan to come on May 31st. Time will be allotted at the beginning of the gathering for those who did not share a story on this topic, and wish to do so.

This will be our last Safe Space discussion until November, as Rev. Lane-Lawrence will be gone on sabbatical.

We need to have these conversations in order to improve relationships in our families... in our churches... and in our communities. Please plan to join us on May 31st as we continue our journey of learning and mutual understanding.



“*Getting To Reparations*” by Dorothy A. Brown has the subtitle “How Building A Different America Requires A Reckoning With Our Past”. The book is divided into three parts. Part 1 presents the four instances when the United States paid cash compensation to nonblack people for harms similar to those experienced by black people: reparation payments to enslavers in Washington, D.C.; Italian lynching victims; Tribal Nations for land theft and economic exploitation; and Japanese Americans for their mass incarceration. Part 2 catalogs the harms experienced by black people after chattel slavery ended. It describes the many ways in which slavery-like conditions were maintained, both legally and by force, to thwart black wealth building and progress. Part 3 outlines the author’s opinions on practical steps to getting reparations for black Americans.



I found the book to be compelling. The author builds, in my opinion, a very strong case for reparations. While I am somewhat less optimistic than she that the goal can be accomplished in my lifetime, I am convinced that reparations are the right thing to pursue.

Monte Shuck

Worship & Music

May 2026 Worship Calendar

May 3	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus preaching Communion
May 10	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Presentation of Bibles Teacher Appreciation
May 17	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Children's Sermon Music Appreciation
May 24	Pentecost	
May 31	Trinity Sunday	Two-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus preaching

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Financial Report through March 31, 2026

General Fund Balance: January 1, 2026	0
Income through March	\$160,910
Expenses through March	\$ 110,716
Ending Balance	\$ 50,194

General Fund Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 50,194
Revolving Accounts Balance	\$ 82,753
Reserve Accounts Balance	\$ 68,121
Investments as of 3/31/2026	\$ 543,205
Net Financial Position (3/31/2026)	\$ 744,274

Anticipated pledged income through March	\$74,731
Actual pledged income through March	\$101,946



The Leffew family has invited everyone to join them for an open house to celebrate the graduation of Jasmine Leffew. This will be happening on June 13th from 2pm to 4 pm here at the church.



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

**WORSHIP AT
MASON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

In-Person and Livestreaming at 10:00am each Sunday

Bulletin Submissions are due by 12:00 PM every Wednesday. Submissions for *The Cornerstone* are due by noon on the 20th day of every month. Please be prompt. Late submissions may not be honored. We are attempting to publish the newsletter the week following Session.

*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.*

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

SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR & BELL CHOIR

DIRECTOR - Deb Melse

OFFICE MANAGER - Jessica Tessman

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Becky Moots

CHORAL MUSIC ACCOMPANIST - Yinzhe Li ("Ashlyn")

SEXTON - Eric VanDyke

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Sarah Fay-Koutz

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR -

Michelle Mackey

ELDERS:

2026 - Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond.

2027 - Travis Archer, Evelyn Tayong, Dan Baker, Steve Sowles.

2028: Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Suzanne Lang, Monte Shuck.

DEACONS:

2026 - Ron Dlouhy, Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal.

2027 - Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Sally Hughes, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielson.

2028: Sandy Diehl, Pattie Yanz, Torrie Yanz.





Deacons

The Deacons will be collecting NEW pairs of socks starting April 1st and running until April 30th. The 'Coats for Kids' campaign has added socks to their list and are calling it 'Sock-It-To-Me Sundays in April'. All congregation members are invited to bring in their sock donations with all sizes and colors welcome. There will be a collection box set up in the Memorial Room. Thank you!

Mission

Mission Committee has been active during these past few months in cooperation with Spiritual Growth, involving the initiatives of our youth and their leaders Lori and Sarah alongside them-- a breakfast outreach to the homeless, the sponsoring of hygiene kits assembly and mailing them to Malawi, the sponsorship of a Compassion International child (now our church has two, in Bolivia and in Uganda).

Locally and internationally, these are learning experiences for all of us, examples of what youth have learned from being in church and from Jesus' mission in our lives, about serving the hungry and less fortunate where all of the world is a neighbor.

Also, Mission is involved in regular aid to programs that are active in Gaza (World Central Kitchen), refugee communities



Christ the Lord
is *Risen* Today

Parish Life



Birthdays in April

Paul Blonshine	5/1	Andrew Pinches	5/16
Shirley Herrick	5/2	Sally Trout	5/18
Ted Welch	5/2	Mike Buchman	5/22
Tonya Seely	5/3	Calvin Hammond	5/22
Rachael Greene	5/7	Lucinda Davenport	5/23
Bruce Caltrider	5/11	Scott Robinson	5/29
		Suzanne Lang	5/30