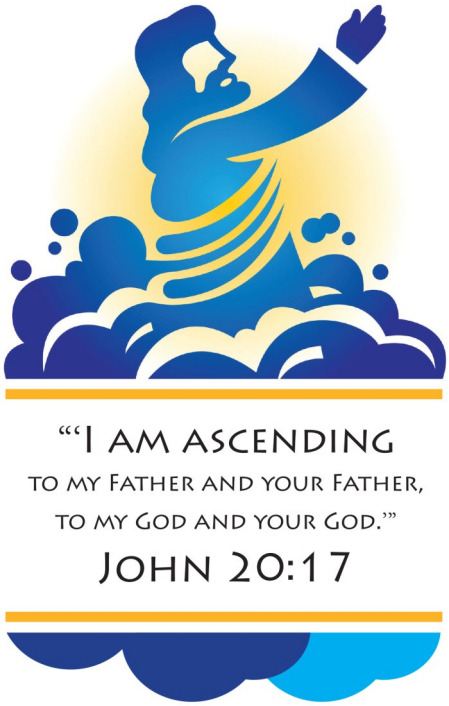
Mason First Presbyterian Church

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 2022



Ascension of the Lord

Forty days after celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord, near the conclusion of the season of Easter, we commemorate the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. On this day in particular, we give thanks for Christ's sovereign rule over all creation, as well as his priestly intercession for us at the throne of God's mercy. We proclaim with joy that Jesus is already Lord of heaven and earth and head of the Church, and watch with longing for the day when he will come again in the glory of God's new creation.

The theological affirmation of Christ's ascension to reign and promised return is more important than the date on which the festival is observed. Prior to the end of the fourth century, when it was fixed on the fortieth day of Easter to follow the chronology of Acts, Jesus' ascension may have been celebrated earlier in the Easter season or in connection with Pentecost. Some congregations today celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

- from *The Book of Common Worship* (2018)

Session Synopsis

The Session review of activity reports began with Board of Deacons. Coordinators for the various Deacon projects throughout the year have now been assigned.

Pastor Bill expressed joy in experiencing the return of many members to in-person activities at the church. He has also recently been asked to consider involvement in the Presbytery's Youth Strategy Team.

Session approved the requests of the parents of Jacob Castle and Erin McGonigal for their respective baptisms likely to occur during worship on Mother's Day.

Session also concurred with the Personnel Committee's recommendation to approve a special request from Pastor Bill. Details of the request will be outlined by other communications. Personnel continues to seek a Technology Manager and will begin a search for Choir Accompanist. The current Choir Accompanist, Hrant, has announced his intentions to follow his fiancé to her new professional position in Kansas City. They will be relocating in July.

The Spiritual Growth Committee reports planning continues for a community VBS, *The Food Truck,* June 14-16th, 5:30-8:15 PM daily at the Methodist Church. The committee also discussed keeping a focus on spiritual development. Many of the committee participants have social work experience that is also found useful for the youth.

The Administration Committee reported another visit by the roofing contractor. A couple of leaks were repaired over the office stairwell. The situation will continue to be monitored before ceiling tiles are replaced. Parts are still forthcoming to repair the heat pump that supports the Choir Room area. A fire alarm sensor was replaced this month in the roof top air duct to avoid the unnecessary daily alert phone messages that had been occurring. The committee announced Saturday, May 7th may be Mason's Spring Fling but also the next best available time for a spring refreshing of the church yard and gardens. New mulch will be ordered to apply to all the garden beds and playground.

Worship & Music, the Pastor, and Personnel continue consultation with guest Organist Karen Knoespel to perform at future worship services. Session approved the committee's recommendation to assume the functions of the Liturgical Arts committee.

The Mission Committee is seeking local mission opportunities to possibly include the new Mason Community Services (MCS) endeavor. MCS President, Linda Hughson was available to present MCS perspectives and needs. In June there will be a presentation on area refugee support from St. Vincent Catholic Charities.

The U-Kirk Board is experiencing a new level of excitement having weathered the pandemic storm. Results are pending of the first fundraising Team Trivia Night.

Session concurred with the recommendations of the Mission and Finance Committees that the Mission Reserve of $15,000 from 2020 General Fund surplus be equally allocated for mission projects supporting Mason Community Services, RE-MEMBER/ Lakota Sioux Tribe at Pine Ridge Reservation, and regional refugee services. Session also concurred with the Finance Committees recommendation to make available from the various scholarship resources, $2,368 plus any direct contributions for 2022 scholarship's. The Finance Committee also recommended the purchasing of new brass altar fixtures from Memorial funds and with the support of Session.

The Security Team is seeking additional members to assure availability in pairs at the church events. Those interested should contact Elder Tim Hammond.

In final actions of the Session, a special meeting of Session is called for May 15th to receive and approve new members from the recent Explorer's Class. Session also renewed endorsement of the special beverage permit for the August 27th Sun Dried Festival.

The next regular meeting of Session will not be until June 16th.

Bruce F Archer
Clerk of Session

Mission

Thanks to everyone who has brought in items for the CWS hygiene kits. We still could us wide tooth combs (must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth), and nail clippers. We would like to put the kits together before school ends.

Please bring things in by May 15. Thanks again to everyone who has been so generous.

Suzie Threadgould

Parish Life

Birthdays in May

Debbie Markiewicz	5/01	Judy Caswell	5/11
Barb VanDyke	5/03	Lori Filka	5/17
Isabel Filka Hughson	5/04	Leah Harkness	5/21
Adam Cruickshank	5/04	Jo Hammond	5/24
Camille Subject	5/06	Mary Schrock	5/26
Mary Ozee	5/06	Sam Pinches	5/27
Kathleen Miihlbach	5/07	Kelly Trout	5/28
Lyle Brockman	5/09	Diane DeVoe	5/28
		Ruby Simons	5/29

The spring yard clean up and mulching will be at the church on Saturday, May 7th beginning at 8 AM, ladies and gents alike.

Perhaps we can get things spruced up outdoors prior to Mother's Day. THANX!

Bruce A
Moderator, Administration Committee

Planning Ahead

Worship Calendar for April

May 1, 2022	Easter III	Communion
May 8, 2022	Easter IV	Mother's Day / baptism of Jacob Castle and Erin McGonigal
May 15, 2022	Easter V	guest preacher: Jim Hegedus / children's sermon / reception of new members
May 22, 2022	Easter VI	guest preacher: Neil Myer / no choir / Bible presentations / teacher appreciation
May 29, 2022	Easter VII	2 Cents a Meal / Memorial Day weekend

Finance

Financial Report through March2022

General Fund Balance January 1, 2022	0
Income through March	$79,208.01
Expenses through March	83,470.58
Ending Balance (3/31/22)	$-4,262.57

General Fund Balance 3/31/22	$	- 4,262.57
Revolving Accounts Balance		26,508.79
Reserve Accounts		128,177
Investments as of March 31, 2022		476,065.00
Net Financial Position (2/28/22)	$	629,115.00

Anticipated pledged income through March	$68,054
Actual pledged income through March	60,536

Personnel

Session recently approved a job description for a Technology Manager. We need help getting the word out. The job description is below and we would encourage you to share it with people you know who might have the kind of skills we are looking for. This is a part-time position; we are envisioning a "normal" week would involve about three hours of work, and a week in which we are experiencing technical difficulties could potentially result in five to eight hours of work. Ideally we are looking for someone with a moderately flexible schedule (like a college student) who might be able to come in to the building for an hour or two on some weekdays, but some work could also be done in the evenings and on weekends. Strong computer and network skills, extremely good attention to detail, very good communication skills, and a willingness to learn new systems are essential. Inquiries may be sent to myself or to Steve Sowles, Personnel Committee chair.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

MASON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Purpose: To provide routine maintenance and troubleshooting on the church's various technology platforms, and to monitor and maintain the church's online presence.

Accountability: The Technology Manager is accountable to the Session through the Pastor as Head of Staff.

Responsibilities:

- Perform routine, weekly maintenance on all church computers (e.g., Windows updates, virus protection updates).
- Monitor the performance of the church's wireless network.
- Respond in a timely fashion to all requests from members of the church staff for troubleshooting assistance and technical support. Resolve as many of those issues as possible without having to solicit additional support.
- Upload weekly worship resources (e.g., mp3 and PDF files) to the church website as directed by the Pastor.
- Monitor and maintain the church's Facebook, Restream, YouTube, Zoom, and other accounts as directed by the Pastor.
- Assist in troubleshooting other digital technology in the church as needed (e.g., HVAC system, phone tree, fire alarm system, elevator alarm system).
- Make suggestions regarding upgrades, new purchases, and others ways our platforms could be improved.
- Perform other related duties as directed by the Pastor.
- Consult with the Pastor for guidance if difficulties arise that require special attention.

Relationships: The Technology Manager works in close contact with the Pastor, and with other members of the church staff as needed. The Technology Manager will be in contact with the Administration Committee when complicated matters arise that require the committee's input.

Evaluation: Performance reviews will be conducted annually by the Personnel Committee and the Pastor as Head of Staff. The Personnel Committee shall annually review the hours and compensation for this position.

Spiritual Growth

May 2022

Important End of the School Year Dates!

May 8th - Mother's Day craft during Sunday school
May 11th - Last Wonderful Wednesday
May 22nd - Bible Presentations, Teacher Appreciation and end of the year Sunday school party
June 5th - Graduation Sunday
June 14th,15, 16th – Vacation Bible school

Camp Greenwood – Make sure you sign-up your youth (and a friend) for Camp this year. The registration codes should have been sent to your families. Please contact Lori Filka if you have not received this information.

Adult Spiritual Growth

Coming this summer!
Are you tired of toxic political dialogue, hate-filled rants on social media, and agenda-driven news stories? Michelle is looking for people to join her in reading the book "I think You're Wrong (But I'm listening)." A book written by two working moms from opposite ends of the political spectrum who contend that there is a better way. We can choose to recognize that issues are nuanced and can't be reduced to political talking points, choose to listen to understand, choose gentleness and patience. This book offers principles, insights and practical tools the authors, Sarah Steward Holland and Beth Silvers, have learned.

Please join us for our Mason Area VBS on June 14th, 15th, and 16th!

Registration begins on-line May 10th!
https://vbspro.events/p/events/996b33

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK THIS YEAR!
JUNE 14th, 15th, 16th 5:30P.M.-8:00P.M. at Mason First UMC
PRE-K thru 6th GRADE
TO REGISTER KIDS OR SIGN UP TO HELP, CLICK ON THE LINK
Mason Area VBS - Food Truck Party

* **DINNER SERVED EACH NIGHT!**
* **NO REGISTRATION FEE—DONATIONS ACCEPTED**
* **THE KONA ICE TRUCK WILL BE HERE THURSDAY EVENING! SUGGESTED DONATION OF $3 PER CHILD**

Mason Area VBS is sponsored by:
Mason First United Methodist Church—First Presbyterian Church of Mason—St. James Catholic Church And supported by All Saints Lutheran Church

Deacons

We had the pleasure of sharing the joy of Easter with 18 of our Members needing some special love and care in April. We assembled and delivered Easter Baskets filled with fruit, candy, cookies, snacks, flowers, and lots of love!

Our sanctuary was filled with 26 lovely lilies, daffodils and tulips on Easter Sunday, honoring and remembering loved ones and rejoicing in the Risen Lord. A glorious site!

Thank you for your generosity and contributions to our special food drive in April. With your help, nearly 100 boxes of cereal were collected and delivered to the local Food Bank.

Beautiful flowers are a wonderful way to remember loved ones. If you would like to provide the sanctuary flowers on either May 22 or December 4, please contact the church office and let us know.

Donna Hujsak - Board of Deacons

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 10:00am 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 15th day of every month.
Please be prompt. Late submissions may not be honored. We are now attempting to publish the newsletter the week following Session.

The CORNERSTONE

Mason First Presbyterian Church
MINISTERS - All Members
PASTOR - Rev. Bill Pinches
PASTOR EMERITUS - Rev. Charlie Herrick
SPIRITUAL GROWTH DIRECTOR - Lori Filka
OFFICE MANAGER - Sheren Wright
SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR & BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR - Deb Melse
CHORAL ACCOMPANIST & PIANIST- Hrant Bagrazyan
ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR - Michelle Mackey

ELDERS:
2022 - Jenny Bond, Ed Clarke, Debbie Shellenbarger, Gladys Welker
2023 - Bruce Archer, Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.
2023 - Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
Clerk: Bruce Archer

DEACONS:
2022 - Marge Clarke, Sandy Diehl, Linda Myall, Mari Nicol.
2023 - Lisa Castle, Kelli Green, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock, Steve VanDyke.
2024 - Kelli Green, Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject, Steve VanDyke,