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

September 2022

God's Mission

The good news of the Gospel is that the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people. This one living God, the Scriptures say, liberated the people of Israel from oppression and covenanted to be their God. By the power of the Spirit, this one living God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, who came to live in the world, die for the world, and be raised again to new life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ announces the nearness of God's kingdom, bringing good news to all who are impoverished, sight to all who are blind, freedom to all who are oppressed, and proclaiming the Lord's favor upon all creation.

The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God's mission.

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

Parish Life

Birthdays in September

Eleanor Simpson	9/07
Jenny Bond	9/09
Suzie Threadgould	9/10
Marla St. George	9/16
Verlin Cook	9/18
Jerry Richards	9/18
Mike Cantrell	9/22
Marge Clarke	9/23
Shirley Kline	9/25
Colin Pinches	9/27
Rebecca Cornish	9/28

On Tuesday, September 20th at 10:30, the Women's Association is hosting a Fall Craft and Luncheon. You are invited to join us for a morning of crafting, sharing a meal, and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office door or you can call Debbie Shellenbarger at 240-0774 to let her know you'll be attending.

Wednesday Night Dinners will begin on September 21th at 6:30 in the dining room. There is no charge for this food and fellowship time but donations are welcome. While we're getting back to normal we're asking everyone who plans to attend to please email the office by the Sunday before the dinner.
sheren@masonpresbyterian.org

There are flower containers and dishes in both the upstairs and downstairs kitchens. Please pick them up if they're yours or they may end up in the fall rummage sale!

If you'd like to be included on the list to receive Prayer Chain messages, please contact the office - sheren@masonpresbyterian.org.

Deacons

There are several upcoming projects to think about as summer draws to a close and school and fall activities return:

*The Harvest Table will offer homegrown produce from your garden each Sunday in the Memorial Room. Please bring in any extra produce you would like to share.

*The Give A Kid A Coat Drive is scheduled for October 22. There is a donation box in the Memorial Room closet for your donations of warm winter coats, hats, gloves, and boots to children and adults in need. The Mason A & W is having a ham dinner fundraiser on Monday, September 12, from 11AM to 7PM . Two dollars from each dinner will benefit the Coat Drive.

*The Crop Walk will be held on October 9. Registration will take place at our church at 1:00 with the walk starting at 2:00. On October 3rd, from 11AM - 7PM, there will be a ham dinner at A & W to benefit the walk. Lisa Castle & Steve VanDyke will be heading the walk from our church and we'd like to have as many people from our congregation participate as possible—walking or donating!

In anticipation of our upcoming Christmas Basket project, we welcome your monetary donations and food donations of canned vegetables, canned fruit, boxed stuffing, instant potatoes, and rice, gravy, etc. at any time.

If you would like to provide the sanctuary flowers on December 4, please contact the church office and let us know.

Session Synopsis

Session met in June and August under the guidance of Presbytery appointed Moderator, Rev. Ben Rumbaugh. Throughout the summer Session approved the purchase and installation of a TV display now in place on the south wall of the sanctuary. The display was provided from Memorial funds.

The Personnel Committee was quite active over the summer with the hiring of Feng (pronounced "phone") Kang as Choral Accompanist on the piano and Worship Accompanist on the organ. In his absence, Len Hui will be on piano. Both are MSU music graduate students from Taiwan. Personnel also contracted with Z-solutions for attending to all communication and information technology needs.

The Spiritual Growth Committee reported a successful community VBS in June and is already in planning for VBS 2023. Wonderful Wednesdays begin September 14th. Wednesday Night Dinners will begin on September 21st. Camp Greenwood Family Camp is scheduled for September 9-11th. The committee was impressed with new mulch around the playground equipment. The equipment is also looking good since being cleaned of mold and mildew.

The Administration Committee reported progress against the roof leaks. The roof drains in the flat roof sections have been power flushed to avoid back up during heavier rainfalls due to partial or complete drain blockages. Now the committee will address ceiling tile replacement of spotted tiles. Based on proposals submitted by Z-solutions, the church wi-fi is gradually being transferred to broaden bandwidth from WOW fiber optic cable and modem. New computers for the livestream and soundboard to accommodate the broader bandwidth should improve livestream performance. Existing computers will be shuffled to also enhance internet performance of staff computers. The committee is also reviewing a proposal for phones on the new internet connection with significant savings if all needs are met. The committee proposes development of the south half of the playground for a family picnic area with picnic tables, refurbished or replaced benches, and 9-square game installation north of the playground equipment area from donated, bequest, or Memorial funds.

The Worship & Music Committee is considering enhancing World Communion Sunday service, October 2nd, by making available breads from a variety of world cultures and encouraging worshipers to wear attire from other world cultures as well.

The Mission committee and the Deacons are seeking support for the annual CROP walk (which will begin at our church), Advent House sack lunches, and monthly gathering of a new community Friends group. Friends is a social connection group of those with special needs beyond the boundaries of state and federal funded programs.

The Finance Committee reports a healthy General Funds surplus balance throughout the summer. The committee also reported the actions of the Scholarship Commission in rewarding $750 scholarships each to Davis Baker, Matthew McGonigal, and Colin Pinches in their pursuit of higher education goals.

Bruce F Archer
Clerk of Session

Worship & Music

September 2022 Worship Calendar

September 4	**13th Sunday after Pentecost**	Rev. Charlie Herrick
September 11	**14th Sunday after Pentecost**	Rev. Charlie Herrick - guest organist: Karen Knoespel
		Family Camp Weekend - Bill will be at Camp Greenwood
September 18th	**15th Sunday after Pentecost**	Pastor Bill returns - Communion - Children's Message
		Sunday School resumes
September 25th	**16th Sunday after Pentecost**	2 Cents a Meal offering

Make a Joyful Noise!

It's time to return and sing to the Lord! The Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsing on September 7th at 7 PM. The Sanctuary Bell Choir will begin rehearsing on September 14th at 6 PM. If you like to sing and want to be part of our music family, come join us! If you have questions contact Deb Melse.

Kilts and Kimonos!

On October 2nd, we will observe World Communion Sunday, when we join with Christian churches around the world to celebrate communion. Christians in every land will be wearing the attire that is most common to their nation. If you have traditional attire from another country we would love to see you wear it on this day. We will also be serving bread from other cultures as our communion host.

Finance

Financial Report through July 2022

General Fund Balance January 1, 2022	0
Income through July	$205,694
Expenses through July	183,766
Ending Balance (7/31/22)	$ 21,928

General Fund Balance 7/31/22	$ 21,928
Revolving Accounts Balance	43,909
Reserve Accounts	113,378
Investments as of July 31, 2022	438,607
Net Financial Position (7/31/22)	$ 617,822

Anticipated pledged income through July
$158,794

Actual pledged income through July
$157,166

Spiritual Growth

Prayer Service
*September 7
Noon Prayer service in the chapel
Join us for a 20-minute guided prayer session in the downstairs chapel.

Family Camp
*September 9, 10, & 11
Family Camp at Greenwood
You can sign-up for camp outside of the church office. Join your church family in a relaxed setting! Meals and lodging are included for the weekend or you can register for Saturday only. The fun includes swimming, boating, fishing, unstructured playtime, a scavenger hunt in the woods, adult prayer time, and outdoor chapel on Sunday.

Wonderful Wednesday!
*September 14
Wonderful Wednesday! starts
All youth are welcomed after school (pre- K thru high school) for our midweek program. Youth enjoy spending time with their peers of all ages. Join us for fun recreation, snacks, mission and activities. Please let Lori Filka know if you need assistance with transportation.

Wednesday Night Dinner
*September 21
Wednesday Night Dinner
Hooray!!! The Kitchen Angels will again bless us with weekly dinners at 6:30pm on Wednesdays. Our Wednesday dinners have been greatly missed. Please come visit with church family once again over a meal. There is no charge for this dinner but donations are appreciated. For a few weeks, we're asking everyone who plans to attend to RSVP at sheren@masonpresbyterian.org no later than the Sunday before.

Mission

All church members and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend Mission Committee meetings, either for a sense of what we do, how someone might help out on an occasional/part-time basis, or be involved with ongoing participation. We are challenged with illness and so forth, down to about three permanent members. On Monday, Sept 12 we will meet at 4pm in the church dining room.

In the *Presbyterians Today* magazine (Sept-Oct. issue) there are several articles that should be of interest to Mason church members. Often they address vital issues of concern- anti-racism education; ageing churches and how to revitalize by applying the Gospel to our practices.

One article in this month's issue (p. 7) provides "movie ideas and discussion questions," for churches hosting movie nights, along with a list of recommended films. Another (p. 25) is about our national church sponsoring 700 new worship communities in the last ten years, of which 545 are active. They have reached immigrant communities in large numbers, about 15,000 people. Finally, among many others, there is an article on the design of worship spaces, urging an accounting for church attenders affected by trauma (pp. 28-32).

The magazine is available by a phone order at 800-558-1669. They often ask for only a donation.

News from the Wider Church

- Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian pastor and a prolific and well-loved author, died Aug. 15 in Rupert, Vermont, at age 96. During his long and illustrious career he wrote more than 30 books, one of which (*Lion Country*) was nominated for the National Book Award, and another (*Godric*) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Obituaries appeared in *The Christian Century*, *Christianity Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, and other places.

- The Updated Edition of the New Revised Standard Version is now available in print. This is a long-awaited and modest revision of the New Revised Standard Version, which was published in 1989. (The NRSV was a revision of the 1957 Revised Standard Version, which was a revision of the 1901 American Standard Version, which was a revision of the 1611 King James Version). The NRSV Updated Edition (abbreviated "NRSVue") became available in digital formats around Christmas and can now be purchased in book form. This is the version Pastor Bill is now using. (He has read most of it already!)

- Two members of a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Response Team have been ministering on the ground in Uvalde, Texas, this summer. Another PDA Response Team has been ministering to flood victims in Eastern Kentucky. The PDA also continues to support ecumenical partners who are ministering to Ukrainian refugees and Ukrainians who have been internally displaced. For more information on these and other efforts, go to pda.pcusa.org.

- The 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met this summer, partially online and partially in person at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky. Among many other items of business, the Assembly:
    - overwhelmingly approved a resolution condemning the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and crimes against humanity, and calling for a cease-fire and the immediate resumption of internationally mediated negotiations.
    - overwhelmingly approved a resolution offering an apology to African Americans for the sin of slavery and its legacy, and also overwhelmingly approved a resolution addressing the lack of installed pastoral leadership in people of color congregations in the PC(USA).
    - approved, by a vote of more than 90%, a resolution affirming that women and pregnant people are full moral agents, created in the image of God, and supporting their moral capacity to decide whether to continue or end any given pregnancy. The resolution also denounces attempts to prevent people from receiving essential health care and rejects attempts at all levels of government to reduce, limit or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care.
    - approved a resolution declaring that the PC(USA) "recognizes that the laws, policies, and practices of the government of Israel regarding the Palestinian people fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid." This decision led to some strong reactions (both for and against). In response, Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), issued a public letter clarifying the decision and reaffirming the PC(USA)'s commitments to dialogue with interfaith partners and to combating antisemitism and all forms of violence, discrimination, and human rights violations. The letter can be read at https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/jhn_letter_070922_apartheid.pdf
    - approved a resolution calling for divestment from five oil and gas companies: Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66 and Valero Energy. The assembly said the companies were not doing enough to slow global warming.
    - approved a motion that the church renew its commitment to end gun violence by developing a 10-year campaign, the Decade to End Gun Violence (2022–2032).

  For more information on any of these matters, go to oga.pcusa.org.

- The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches is currently meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany. Four thousand representatives from 325 denominations in 120 countries are in attendance at the assembly, which typically meets once every eight years. Patriarch John X of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch (Syria) was the opening preacher and reminded attendees of the plight of Christians in Syria and the wider Middle East. For more information, go to https://www.oikoumene.org/about-the-wcc/organizational-structure/assembly

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– Feng Kang
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.