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

October 2022

Jesus Christ Is the Head of the Church

The Authority of Christ

Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority, has given to him all power in heaven and on earth, not only in this age but also in the age to come. God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body. The Church's life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ's ongoing life and work.

Christ Calls and Equips the Church

Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission in the world, for its sanctification, and for its service to God. Christ is present with the Church in both Spirit and Word. Christ alone rules, calls, teaches, and uses the Church as he wills.

Christ Gives the Church Its Life

Christ gives to the Church its faith and life, its unity and mission, its order and discipline. Scripture teaches us of Christ's will for the Church, which is to be obeyed. In the worship and service of God and the government of the church, matters are to be ordered according to the Word by reason and sound judgment, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Christ Is the Church's Hope

In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope, and that the Church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God.

Christ Is the Foundation of the Church

In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ God reconciles all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross (Col. 1:19–20). In Christ's name, therefore, the Church is sent out to bear witness to the good news of reconciliation with God, with others, and with all creation. In Christ the Church receives its truth and appeal, its holiness, and its unity.

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

Worship & Music

October 2022 Worship Calendar

October 2	17th Sunday after Pentecost	World Communion Sunday
October 9	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Jim Hegedus, guest preacher; Minute for Finance
October 16	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Minute for Deacons; Children's Message
October 23	20th Sunday after Pentecost	
October 30	21st Sunday after Pentecost	2 Cents a Meal offering

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.

Remembrance Sunday
November 6th, 2022

This year, on November 6th, we will remember church members, family and friends who passed away October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. 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 <u>before</u> October 24th.

Session Synopsis

The September Session meeting opened with joyous greetings on the return of Pastor Bill to the role of Moderator.

The Deacons found a challenge in acquiring childrens' names in need of school supplies. Next year's Back-To-School program will likely be in collaboration with Mason First Methodist Church, who seem to have better access to children's needs. Session suggested the Deacons may clarify the promotion of the upcoming Coat Drive in that other winter items are also included.

Pastor Bill was pleased to experience the new outreach of the monthly Friends gathering. The gathering provides a social opportunity for those with special needs that are beyond usual support programs. The Pastor reported a good visit among church family members residing at Green Acres. In response to an Elder's inquiry, Pastor Bill reported tracking Sunday worship hymns as a matter of past practice to avoid repetition of hymns too soon.

The Session did gather with the Board of Deacons earlier in the month to welcome back Pastor Bill, to share common concerns, and enjoy fellowship with other lay leaders during this annual event, the first in 2 years.

The Nominating Committee will soon begin seeking nominees for next year's Session, Board of Deacons, and Nominating Committee. Please faithfully consider the offer if you are contacted for such positions for election at a special congregational meeting in November.

The Parish Life Committee is encouraging the return to active participation from less attending members via a phone campaign. Homemade jam has been left on recent visits to church family shut-ins. Pies are being made to offer in support of the area Relay for Life.

The Security Team has been on patrol during services. Team members on duty will soon be noted in the church bulletin to minimize any suspicious minds attending the service. Members with a key to the church office can soon expect a change of keys.

The Spiritual Growth Committee announced the seasonal start for Wonderful Wednesday activities hopefully to include the evening meal. Also beginning are two adult study groups.

The Administration Committee offered some project ideas funds from memorials, bequests, or donations. The list includes renovation or replacement of benches within the fenced playground, also picnic tables, and 9-Square structure. The Women's Association offered to fund the 9-Square installation.

The Worship and Music Committee is adding international décor for the upcoming World Communion Service, October 2nd. Those attending worship are encouraged to wear attire representing other world cultures to the service.

The Mission Committee distributed the $15,000 Mission Grant allocated from the previous year's budget surplus. $5,000 each was dispatched to support programs at Re-Member for Lakota Indian programs, St. Vincent Catholic Charities for refugee assistance, and to Mason Community Services for local social needs. A significant mission effort when the resources are available.

The Finance Committee is pleased with the healthy surplus of the General Fund Budget. Committees should be preparing budget needs for 2023 while the Finance Committee prepares the fall pledge campaign.

Bruce F Archer
Clerk of Session

Finance

Commitment Sunday is October 30!

Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment for the next year and return your pledge card as soon as possible, but no later than Commitment Sunday, which is October 30. Pledge cards are also available at each church entrance.

Your commitment to financially support your church in 2023 is critical as your Session begins developing the spending plan for the next year. Our current annual operations budget is approximately $324,000. 65% of that goes to support the dedicated people who have been chosen to direct and assist us, and most of the remainder (23%) goes to keeping our church building open and functioning. The rest – 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 66 pledges for this year provided us with $275,000, or 85% 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 19, and all are welcome. If anyone has questions about the importance of your financial commitment, please contact myself, any member of the Session or Pastor Bill Pinches.

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

Financial Report through August 2022

General Fund Balance January 1, 2022	0
Income through August	$234,100
Expenses through August	208,308
Ending Balance (8/31/22)	$ 25,792

General Fund Balance 8/31/22	$ 25,792
Revolving Accounts Balance	62,350
Reserve Accounts	95,104
Investments as of July 31, 2022	438,607
Net Financial Position (8/31/22)	$ 620,291

Anticipated pledged income through August
$181,479

Actual pledged income through August
$180,642

Thank you for your faithful support!

Spiritual Growth

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- This class is taught by Lori Filka with assistance from Aimee Cruickshank and Lucy Simons. Following their third-year rotational curriculum, we will be using Cokebury's "*Celebrate Wonder-All ages."* We will be studying both Samuel and David to start the school year. Through play, Bible exploration and faith conversations the goal of *Celebrate Wonder* is to deepen faith and grown in spiritual identity as children of God.

Middle and High School- This class is taught by Sarah Simons along with an occasional guest from our congregation. The Cokesbury curriculum being utilized is entitled "*Groove"* and the 4-week study topics are "Dilemmas" and "Grace." These studies invite tweens and teens to "learn the essentials of their faith, own their story and engage the world in serving Jesus."

Middle & High School Fellowship

*Take the time to check-out the downstairs youth room. Our youth group, supervised by Sarah Koutz, painted an amazing mural on the north wall! They also applied a fresh coat of paint to the swing set on the church's playground.

*The next youth fellowship event will be the annual CROP which takes place on October 9th at 2:00pm. The walk starts and finishes from our church. Pick-up a Walker Donation Envelope in the Memorial Room and join in the efforts of raising money to help end hunger.

*Urban Plunge, a Presbytery-wide mission event, will take place at our church November 4th – 6th. Youth from many different churches will be staying the weekend in our church and visiting several local mission sites around the Mason/Lansing area. Look for the youth during the worship service on Sunday, October 6th.

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 is the perfect way to end our Wonderful Wednesday!

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

Adult After Worship Discussion Group

Please join us for an Adult Discussion Time after worship from 11:20am-12:00pm in the library. We have started a 5-week video series based on the book *Friend of Sinners: why Jesus cares more about relationship than perfection* by Rich Wilkerson Jr. No preparation is needed and no homework is required to attend this enriching series. Bring your coffee and snacks to the library for a lively discussion!

Tuesday Afternoon Discussion Group

A discussion group on Tuesday afternoons using the book *Jesus In Me* by Anne Graham Lotz is being scheduled. This wonderful study focuses on the power of the Holy Spirit. Please let Michelle Mackey know by October 9th you are interested in attending.

Noon Prayer Service in the Chapel

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

Deacons

The annual Crop Walk is on October 9, 1:00pm, starting at the church. There will be both a 1-mile route and a 3-mile route available for your walk around downtown Mason. Please consider walking or making a donation. Our local A&W Restaurant will be hosting a ham dinner Fund Raising event on October 3, 11am-7pm, donating $2 for each ham dinner purchased.

The Give A Kid A Coat Drive is underway, with distribution of coats on October 22 at St James Catholic Church. There is a donation box currently in the Memorial Room closet for your donations of gently used warm winter coats, hats, mittens, gloves, and boots to help children and adults in need stay warm this winter. Your monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

It is time to start thinking about our biggest project of the year-filling Christmas baskets with food, gifts, and clothing for local families. Please consider bringing food donations for our Christmas Basket project, especially canned vegetables, canned fruits, boxed stuffing, instant potatoes and rice, gravy, etc. any time. Monetary donations are also much appreciated.

Holiday Wreaths

BSA Troop 763 is now selling BSA popcorn and holiday fresh fir wreaths. The supply is limited to 180 wreaths this year on first order basis. Though wreath costs have increased, the price remains the same at $25 each. An order form is available on the office bulletin board or you may order from Luke or Andrew Mackey within the church family. Wreaths will be delivered prior to Thanksgiving. The wreath sales benefit the Deacons by providing the hams and turkeys for the Christmas baskets.

Bruce F Archer
Troop 763 Committee Member

Parish Life

Birthdays in October

Kurt Immekus	10/02
Matthew McGonigal	10/04
Nicholas Trout	10/05
Sarah Fay-Koutz	10/06
Chloë Caltrider	10/09
Kaitlyn Caltrider	10/09
Doreen Chapman	10/14
Mary Garland Jackson	10/15
Linda Peterson	10/15
Sam VanDyke	10/17
Tim Caswell	10/22
Hope Bartlett	10/25
Kate Barber	10/29
Erin McGonigal	10/29
Bill Pinches	10/30
Tyler Harkness	10/31

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 & ORGANIST - 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, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock, Steve VanDyke.
2024 - Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.