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

June/July 2024

Christian Worship (continued)

Matter

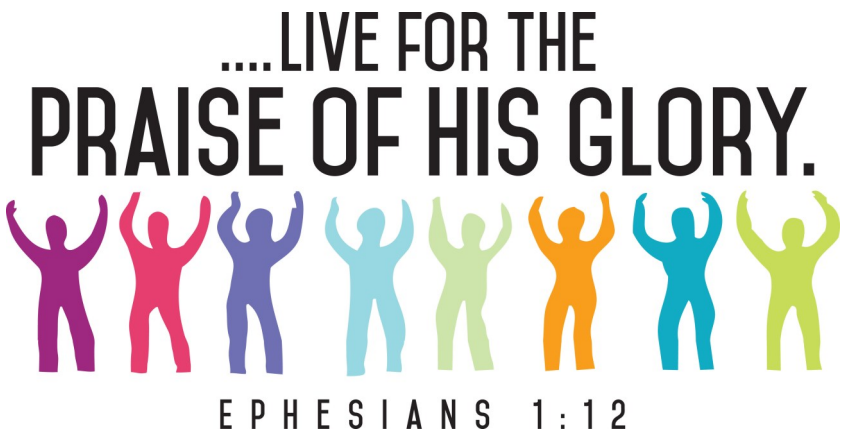
Because God created the world and called it good, we use material gifts in worship. The Old Testament tells of various things that were used in the worship of God: the ark, linens and vessels, oil and incense, musical instruments, grain, fruit, and animals. At the same time, the prophets warned of the danger of idolatry: mistaking physical objects for divine presence. The Gospels show how Jesus used common things—nets and fish, jars and ointment, a towel and basin, water, bread, and wine—in his ministry of teaching, healing, and feeding. On the cross, he offered his body as a living sacrifice.

The first Christians, following Jesus, took three primary elements of life—water, bread, and wine—as symbols of God's self-offering to us and our offering of ourselves to God. We have come to call them Sacraments: signs of God's gracious action and our grateful response. Through the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, God claims us as people of the covenant and nourishes us as members of Christ's body; in turn, we pledge our loyalty to Christ and present our bodies as a living sacrifice of praise.

The offering of material gifts in worship is an expression of our self-offering, as an act of gratitude for God's grace. We give our lives to God through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. The practice of offering also reflects our stewardship of God's good creation. Mindful that the earth and everything in it belong to God, we present tithes and offerings for use in Christ's ministry and mission.

We offer creative gifts in worship as well, including music, art, drama, movement, media, banners, vestments, vessels, furnishings, and architecture. When such gifts only call attention to themselves, they are idolatrous; when, in their simplicity of form and function, they give glory to God, they are appropriate for worship.

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



Session Synopsis

Among the first order of Session business this month was the sharing and acceptance into Active membership of Debi and Mike Buchman and Isaac Reyes. Their affirmation before the congregation will follow later in June or July after a fourth member candidate recovers from a fall injury and is able to come before the Session.

The Deacons delivered 82 pounds of food this month and will hold off further collection until later in June or July. Details for the Relay For Life are forthcoming in June.

The office staff is preparing to roll out new name badges soon for the congregation to wear during services and leave in the appropriate name badge cabinets upon departure. Pastor Bill reported the Presbytery is seeking one additional male volunteer chaperone for the Montreat Youth Conference. Pastor Bill also provided an update on his ankle which is slowly healing but continuing discomfort may be indicative of injury that may be discovered with follow up MRI.

Session approved the use of Steve Van Dyke memorial funds to acquire volleyball and 9 Square playground equipment. Session also consented to the Special Beverage Permit to allow the Sun Dried Festival to serve alcoholic beverages within 500 feet of the church (Jefferson Street) August 23rd-24th.

Worship & Music, at the suggestion of Pastor Bill, is shifting the order of worship. The "minute for committee" will shift from prior to the opening of worship to prior to the offering (following the second hymn).

The Mission Committee will meet June 8th and then not until September. Committee chair Rex Hauser will liaison with the Bridge Builders Task Force.

The Bridge Builders Task Force has arranged for several new books in the church library. Task Force members are already reading some of the books for Task Force discussions and possible development as congregational study programs.

The Parish Life committee announced another Mother's Day pie sale and spring rummage sale. The committee continues to contact Active members that have been absent or less active in recent months. Such members may opt to return to more active roles, transfer to the Associate member roll, or be dropped from the rolls.

Personnel reported a favorable annual review of the part-time Sexton position being currently fulfilled by Eric Van Dyke. Session approved the committee recommended minor modifications to the Child and Youth Protection Policy.

The Spiritual Growth Director has been consulting with her counterpart at the Mason United Methodist Church for the upcoming community Vacation Bible School this summer. Church youth and community friends are well represented among the various Camp Greenwood summer programs. The committee is preparing to recognize the two high school graduates of the church family, Andrew Mackey and Gift Tayong, at the June 2nd worship service.

The Administration Committee reported progress on the office changeover to a new PC and updated office and accounting software packages. The kitchen water heater has been repaired. Future repairs may consider replacement with an electric unit. Issues remain with one double HVAC unit. Comments were appreciated on the appearance of the grounds following the April yard clean-up event.

A viable summer date is being researched for the annual joint gathering of the Session Elders, Board of Deacons, and their spouses to be hosted by Jane Hamelink and Ron Dlouhy.

Session continued a review and clarification on the various Session responsibilities outlined in The Book of Order.

Other than a special meeting to accept a new member, Session's next regular meeting will be August 15th.

Bruce F Archer - Clerk of Session

Spiritual Growth

Important dates to remember

June 2nd	Graduation Sunday
July 16th-18th	VBS at the Methodist Church
July 21st-27th	Montreat Youth Trip

Deacons

The 2004 Relay For Life of Greater Lansing will be held on June 14-15, 6pm-10am at Corrigan Oil Speedway, 779 College Road, Mason. The annual Relay supports the American Cancer Society. If you would like to make a donation, please write a check to the church with Relay For Life noted on the memo line. Thank you for your support.

We have an open sanctuary flower date for October 20. If you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one, please contact Donna Hujsak or the church office.

Flower Sunday will be July 21 this year. We look forward to seeing all the beautiful flowers you have grown!

We continue to pray for those in our church family that are in need of our love, care and support. Please keep them in your thoughts.

Donna Hujsak

Worship & Music

June/July 2024 Worship Calendar

June 2	Second Sunday after Pentecost ~ Communion ~ Music Appreciation Sunday Recognition of High School Graduates
June 9	Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 16	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 23	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 30	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Two-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering
July 7	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost ~ Communion
July 14	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 21	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 28	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Two-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering

Finance

Financial Report through April 2024

General Fund Balance January 1, 2024	0
Income through April	$173,776
Expenses through April	128,769
Ending Balance (4/30/24)	$ 45,007

General Fund Balance 4/30/24	$ 45,008
Revolving Accounts Balance	61,502
Reserve Accounts	93,729
Investments as of 4/30/24 (end of 1st quarter 2024	528,488
Net Financial Position (4/30/24)	**$728,727**

Anticipated pledged income through April
$95,293

Actual pledged income through April
$130,469

Parish Life

Birthdays in June

Rex Hauser	6/03
Donna Archer	6/05
Emelia Hammond	6/07
Katharine Wise	6/07
Stan Stolz	6/09
Peg Shaub	6/10
Layla Blonshine	6/14
Luana Foster	6/14
Anna Lee Lavis	6/14
Joan Meinke	6/18
Kathy Cornwell	6/21
Jamie Robinson	6/22
Marjorie Welch	6/24
Charlie Herrick	6/28
Karen O'Malley	6/29
Mary Robinson	6/30

Birthdays in July

Carol Shiery	7/08
Edward Clarke	7/09
Loren Harkness	7/12
Gladys Welker	7/12
Gerald Ambrose	7/14
Nancy Sue MacDonald	7/16
Judy Woolston	7/16
Merrilee Brockman	7/17
Tammy Sowles	7/19
Abby Blonshine	7/20
Kevin Mackey	7/21
Jack Davis	7/25
Janet Immekus	7/26
Michelle Mackey	7/26
Carma Philip	7/27
Samantha Trout	7/27

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS

Lloyd Fett
2530 Marfitt Road
Apartment 350
East Lansing, MI 48823

Merrilee & Lyle Brockman
2050 S. Washington Road
Apartment 1020
Holt, MI 48842
517-709-3746

Shirley Day
Quincy Place Senior Living
Apartment 33
12300 Quincy Street
Holland, MI 49424

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
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 - Dr. Feng Kang
OFFICE ASSISTANT - Nancy Sue MacDonald
SEXTON - Eric VanDyke
ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR - Michelle Mackey

ELDERS:
2024 - Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
2025 - Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck (*Recording Clerk*).
2026 - Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond.

DEACONS:
2024 - Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
2025 - Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).
2026 - Ron Dlouhy, Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal.