



Spreading the Word

Washington Presbyterian
Church

JUNE 2021

From the Pastor's Desk....

By the time you read June's newsletter, most of you will know that we are returning to regular church observances following Covid. Seek out your favorite posts, sing with a hymnal and praise God for bringing us through to now. Some will not feel ready to return just yet, and some find the comforts of home and TV church more conducive to their new normal. However, we are the church, a priesthood of believers who will very much miss you if that is your decision. All has been readied for worshipping in wholeness, that is with a few slight differences. I am grateful for those who have faithfully returned and those who faithfully tuned into zoom or other Sunday services. The Lord has ordained our church for worshipping and praising Him. I look forward to seeing everyone on *The Second Sunday of Pentecost*, June 6th for Holy Communion. Bring your own bread if that works for you.

Our temporary seclusions reminded me of the *Parable of the Wild Duck* by Soren Kierkegaard.

With his mates this duck was flying in the springtime northward across Europe. During the flight he came down in a Danish barnyard where there were tame ducks. He enjoyed some of their corn. He stayed for an hour, then for a day, then for a week, then for a month, and finally, because he relished the good fare and the safety of the barnyard, he stayed all summer. But one autumn day when the flock of wild geese were winging their way southward again, they passed over the barnyard, and their mate heard their cries. He was stirred with a strange thrill of joy and delight, and with a great flapping of wings he rose in the air to join his old comrades in their flight.

But he found that his good fare had made him so soft and heavy that he could rise no higher than the eaves of the barn. So he dropped back again to the barnyard and said to himself, "Oh, well, my life is safe here, and the food is good." Every spring and autumn he heard the wild ducks honking, his eyes would gleam for a moment and he would begin to flap his wings. But finally the day came when the wild ducks flew over him and uttered their cries, and he paid not the slightest attention to them.

Blessings to all of you,
Pastor Linda



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Reverend
Dr. Linda E. Philabaun
Judy Wilder, Admin. Asst.

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The *deadline* for submitting articles for the **July newsletter**

June 19 at 5 p.m.

articles may be e-mailed to
jsq85@aol.com

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—May 2021

The May session meeting was held May 20, 2021. If you have any concerns for session, please communicate them to Clerk of Session, Cathy Strawbridge.

The next session meeting will be Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

Clerk's Report:

Received the first quarter per capita statement from Great Rivers Presbytery.

Pastor's Report:

Thank you for allowing me to go to Portland, IN to perform my 2nd cousin's wedding.



The office has been running smoothly. There have been a couple days of power outages somewhere in Washington that affect us. It amounted to lights briefly going out and interruption to our computers. However, neither Judy nor I lost any computer work. Still, when it happens, we hold our breath.

The Deacons have been doing an incredible job of caring for our shut-ins.

Upcoming events include Pentecost this Sunday, Trinity Sunday following, and Worship in the Park on the 13th. I would like to try to have a praise service with lots of music and singing.

-Report of the Treasurer: Treasurer's report for April 2021 was approved.

Report of Commissioner to Presbytery: Next scheduled meetings

May 25, 2021 – Melody Wiseman and Jean Escue attending

August 24, 2021

November 13, 2021

Facilities and Maintenance: (Kevin Gall)

“No Parking” signs purchased, and “JULIE” contacted to mark utilities where signs will be located.

Finance: Bill Strawbridge

The SEC interviewed candidates on Monday, May 17. It was recommended and approved that scholarships be awarded to Sabrena Ksycki and Hayley Earl.

Member Care: Karen Milano

Church picnic in the park on June 13, 2021. Please bring your own sack lunch and beverage.

Mission: Jean Escue

May 2021

OSF Antepartum donation: body wash/soap

Children's Hospital donation: NONE

Almost Home Kids: Kleenex

Whip: canned chicken/canned tuna in water



Session Meeting Minutes cont. . . .

Donations for June

OSF Antepartum donation: Shampoo

Children's Hospital donation: stickers/color books

Almost Home Kids: NONE

Whip: Soup/canned pasta

Mission Committee members include: Paula Sights, Carol Voorhees, Lila Gammon, and Jean Escue

Worship and Sacraments: (Melody Wiseman)

Attendance:

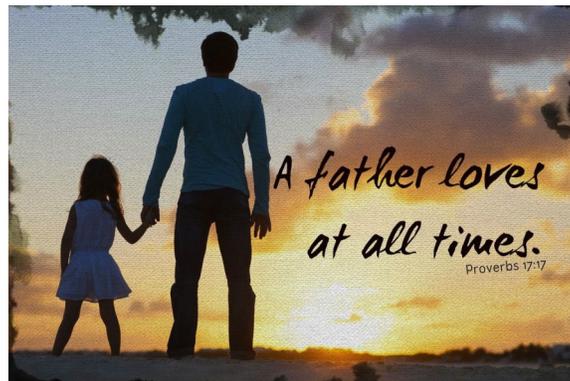
April 18th - 30 in the sanctuary, 10 on Zoom

April 25th - 23 in the sanctuary, 11 on Zoom

May 2nd - 22 in the sanctuary, 9 on Zoom

May 9th - 22 in the sanctuary, No Zoom

May 16th - 32 in the sanctuary, No Zoom



Pastor Linda attended a family wedding in Indiana on May 9th. Our Pulpit Supply pastor was Rev. Joel Jackle-Hugh from Pana, IL. He is currently the chaplain and a social worker at Kemmerer Village, Assumption, IL.

Deacon' Report: Starting June 2021 the deacons will be accepting donations (or loans) of handicap equipment in good condition from our members. It will be stored at the church using a vacant room.

Unfinished Business:

PNC Committee Report update: _Nothing more to report at this time. Keep the committee in your prayers.

New Business:

Returning to Normal

As a result of Thursday's session meeting, we are "returning to normal" during worship. We have removed the blue tape designed for proper seating during covid. Feel free to sit where you like. If you are uncomfortable, feel free to move for more social distancing.

Masking is up to you. The CDC recently said that vaccinated persons may be allowed to congregate without masks both inside and outside. Do what feels right for you. Several weeks ago we had a show of hands that indicated at that time most of the congregation had had their shots. (The CDC also said that those not vaccinated should continue to wear masks. Those people with special conditions that make them at risk should also consider what they need to do.)

This Sunday [May 23rd] was meant to be the last Sunday for Zoom. However, the church's WiFi is unstable and did not work well at Thursday's session meeting, so we do not plan to have Zoom for May 23. We will be happy to mail sermons and bulletins to you if you wish. Call Judy to request them or use the signup sheet at the church.

June 6 will be Holy Communion shared in the traditional way. You are welcome to bring your own bread. Communion will be prepared with "glove care."

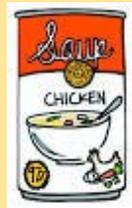
We will be using our hymnals and pew bibles to enjoy the comforts of a full worship service. If you are comfortable with these conditions, please join us for worship.

Session

MISSION

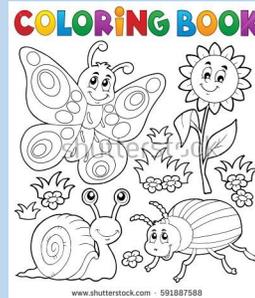
WHIP

SOUP and/or CANNED PASTA



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

STICKERS/COLOR BOOKS



ANTEPARTUM UNIT

SHAMPOO



DEACONS REPORT

Starting in June 2021, the deacons will be accepting donations (or loans) of handicap equipment in good condition from our members. We plan to make this equipment available to our church families when a need arises. Equipment can be signed out by contacting a deacon. It will be stored at the church, probably using a vacant Sunday school room. We hope to collect walkers, wheelchairs, canes and various items useful for rehab and recovery. (Note: we will not collect commodes or bath chairs due to sanitation concerns). If you have items you'd like to share, please contact a deacon and we can either pick it up or meet you at the church. Hopefully we'll all stay healthy and accident-free in the coming year so this equipment won't be needed! Thank you for your help In this endeavor.

Patti Patton	309-981-9188,
Betty Laughlin	309-472-8191
Paula Prutsman	309-360-4405
Kim Siu	309-361-2621
Lila Gammon	309-648-5420
Bob Fink	309-444-3732

PNC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your PNC would first like to thank you for your prayers and your patience as we make this pastor search journey together. We have had many challenges so far and are doing our due diligence to find the best pastor for Washington Presbyterian Church.

Over the time we have been a committee we have received approximately 150 candidate forms to review. Of those candidates, we have reached out to 50 plus. At this time we have not found the right candidate to be our pastor.

For those of you who have served on a PNC, you know the procedures and timeline. For those of you have not had the joy of serving on a PNC, we thought you might like to know the process as determined by PCUSA and our Great Rivers Presbytery.

As you all know, we gathered information from the congregation to create a Mission Statement. From there, the PNC team was selected. Your PNC team members are Mike Fritz, Lance Escue, Chuck Brunner, Roberta Spitz, and Melody Wiseman. We created a Ministry Information Form (MIF) including qualities our church is seeking in a pastor along with other WPC details. This MIF was approved by our Session and Great Rivers Presbytery. From that point our MIF was loaded into the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) database. We were active in the database and started receiving Pastoral Information Forms (PIF), who are the candidates matching our criteria, March of 2019.

The PNC reviews each candidate we receive in many different ways to make sure we understand who they are and if they might be a good fit for WPC. Once a group review is completed, we contact those candidates we would like to engage in conversation. If they respond, we then schedule a telephone conference call to ask a few questions. If all goes well, then we request a Presbytery to Presbytery background check completed by Great Rivers Presbytery. Once we have the approval to move forward, we schedule interviews with the three to six references the candidate provides in the PIF. If the PNC agrees, we move forward to a second interview with the candidate, via video if we can. If all parties wish to continue in conversation, a criminal background check is completed by Great Rivers Presbytery. Once this is complete the Great Rivers Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) schedules a Theological Fit Exam with the candidate. This is done to ensure the candidate is a good fit for our congregation. Once the COM approves the candidate, the PNC then may work with the candidate to schedule a neutral pulpit Sunday at a location close to Washington. With a successful neutral pulpit Sunday, the PNC will then work on terms of call with the Session and arrange for the candidate to come to WPC for a Sunday service. After the service, the congregation will vote on the proposed candidate. The minimum timeline for this process from start to finish would be around 14 to 18 weeks or longer.

We have not completed the whole process, but have been close to the neutral pulpit step. Unfortunately, COVID shut the entire country down and our pastor search as well. Since that time, we have not been matched with many candidates. We request 25 candidates and receive 5 or 9 candidates fitting our criteria. As COVID is waning, we are hoping to see more candidates willing to move.

Please feel free to reach out to your PNC team. We would be happy to talk with you about any questions or concerns you might have in our process.

Your WPC PNC,
Mike, Lance, Chuck, Roberta, and Melody



BITS AND PIECES

PRAYERS FOR:

- Nancy Ponto—cancer
- Dick Freeman—Stroke
- Mark Wolf—health concerns
- Kim Siu—health concerns
- Lila Neville— health concerns
- Marge Honeg— recovering from a broken leg
- Betty Hollis—Buehler Home
- Whitey and Judy Wilder’s son Chris—hospital with COVID



2021 Graduates

If you have a child or grandchild or know of someone from the church who is graduating from 8th grade, high school or college please let Judy know. We don't want to miss anyone.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The 2021 Sanctuary Flower sign up sheet is available in the East Room by the office. Please sign up to provide flowers for the communion table on the third Sunday of each month. If your flowers are in honor of someone or a special celebration, please note on the sign up sheet. There will be no flowers needed in February and March due to celebrating Lent. If a vase is needed, there are several in the vestibule at the west end of the Session Room/Nursery hallway. Please feel free to use any of those vases from the box.

CHURCH IN THE PARK

Ready for summer? Mark your calendars for our annual Church in the Park outing. Yes, that's right! This year will be a bit different but come enjoy our worship and fellowship at Wenger Shelter on June 13th at 10:30 am. We ask that everyone bring their own sack lunch and lawn chairs so that we might spread out a bit. If you have not been vaccinated or if you prefer please wear a mask.



Cy Fahnstock passed away Wednesday May 26, 2021 in his sleep. Prayers for the family

A Dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again.

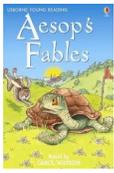


Happy Father's Day!



June 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1  Oscar's B-day	2	3	4 	5
6 Worship 9:30 AM Communion	7	8  Vacuum patented	9	10	11	12 
13 Church in the Park 10:30 AM Wenger Shelter	14 Flag Day 	15  Fly a Kite Day	16	17 Session Mtng 6:30 PM	18 International Picnic Day 	19 Newsletter Info due
20 Worship 9:30 	21	22	23 Typewriter Invented 	24	25	26 toothbrush invented 
27 Worship 9:30 AM	28	29	30	 ROSE MONTH		
		DEAF-BLINDNESS AWARENESS WEEK				

Birthdays:

- 3 Betty Laughlin 9 Sydney Ksycki 26 Roberta Spitz
- 6 Karin Earl 10 Beau Carter 28 Kent Casey
- 7 Lee Moore 11 Hayley Earl 30 Jennifer Proffitt
- 8 Sandy Fritz 21 Jacob Reiese



Washington Presbyterian Church

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