TIDINGS APRIL 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street Valparaiso, IN 46383 Phone: (219) 464-4985

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



SESSION SYNOPSIS OF MARCH 20, 2024

The March Session Meeting was held one week earlier than normal to avoid meeting during Holy Week. The initial part of the meeting was what is known as Elder Training when the elders were provided some information and/or materials in advance that are then discussed during this time of the meeting. This month our Associate Pastor in Residence, Julia Qiuye Zhao 趙秋葉 led a lively and insightful discussion that started with the elders reading Pastor Julia's article written for the Center of Asian American Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary that had previously been shared with the Wednesday morning Bible Study group at our church. It was a way to get to know Pastor Julia better and to discuss how a person's name is so intertwined with who they are and how they are viewed by others. Discussion involved instances in history where an immigrant's name was changed for a variety of reasons. Examples included name changes like Abram & Sarai to Abraham & Sarah as a sign of the covenant with God, changed names of European immigrants upon arriving at Ellis Island in America to make them more "American," or easier to pronounce, etc. Several Elders spoke of changes in their family names. In Julia's case upon her arrival in Canada at age nine her name was determined to be 'unpronounceable' to English speakers and she was advised to use an English name. What that meant to her to have a new name other than what she was called at birth and how her situation has been mirrored by other immigrants when their names are changed led to a very insightful conversation. Being a welcoming congregation requires that we listen and learn a person's name, and to also appreciate, the importance of a person's name.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY SESSION

During the normal course of the meeting, several MOTIONS were presented to Session from several Teams the key ones being:

MOTION to Session from Worship Team for Summer Worship Schedule beginning in May 2024 with <u>outdoor</u> <u>worship</u> scheduled to be the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, pending weather, concluding at the end of September. This will be the same annually going forward. APPROVED.

MOTION to Session from the Finance Team to accept the recommendation of the Planned Giving Committee that FPCV accept all funds available from our investments with the Porter County Community Foundation: \$5,450 from the Breyding Fund, \$1,000 from the Graeber Fund and \$12,716 from FPCV Endowment investment was seconded and APPROVED.

MOTION to Session from the Bylaws Task Force to approve the submitted version of the Facilities Use Policies & Fees for implementation April 1st with the revisions to the policy to reflect how situations where there are questions as to eligibility will be handled. A second was made and motion APPROVED. (Copies of this policy are available by request to Office Administrator Dawn Scarborough.)

MOTIONS from Mission Team to Session to (a) Accept resignation of Cindy Robinson as Co-Moderator and b) to approve appointment of long-time Resale Shop volunteer Sue Durnell as Co-Moderator. APPROVED

MOTION to Session with a second that any leftover items from the Bake Sale on Saturday, November 2, 2024, be sold in the Hospitality Center before and after the church service on Sunday November 3, 2024. Approved

continued on next page

SESSION SYNOPSIS, CONTINUED

REPORTS WERE RECEIVED from the following Teams & Staff without discussion:

- => Personnel
- => Preschool Planning Team & Leadership
- => Buildings & Grounds Team
- => Congregational Life Team
- => First Presbyterian Pre-school Leaders & Staff

- => Pastor Kim Adams
- => Finance & Planned Giving
- => Faith Formation Team
- => iEngage Team
- => Worship Team
- Other reports were received from the Treasurer, the Director of Faith Formation, the Associate Pastor in Residence and the Clerk Pro Tem of Session.

If you would like more information, please read the detailed minutes which will be *posted in the glass-enclosed announcement board* in the Hospitality Center once they are approved. **In the meantime**, please contact any of the Elders and/or the Clerk Pro Tem if you have questions or are interested in further details.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hubbard, Clerk Pro Tem of Session

EXPLORING NEW MEMBERSHIP

EXPLORING NEW MEMBERSHIP AT FPC VALPARAISO APRIL 7 THROUGH APRIL 28, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. FRIENDSHIP ROOM

While the faith journey is indeed a personal one, it is not meant to be traveled alone!

Whether you are a first time/frequent visitor and friend of First Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso (FPCV) or just need a refresher, all are welcome to join us for "Exploring at First Presbyterian Church, Valparaiso." We will take a look at what it means to be Presbyterian (what we believe), how the Presbyterian Church (USA) is structured, and the various ministries of FPCV. Each session will be held on Sunday mornings in the Friendship Room from 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Additional Sunday morning faith formation classes are available for children and youth. If you plan on attending and would like to know more about additional opportunities for children and youth, please contact Trish Lawson at tlawson@fpcvalpo.org.

As a member of First Presbyterian Church, you will be encouraged to grow in your relationship with the Triune God through worship, faith formation, fellowship, mission, and outreach. However, by attending this class you are not required to become a member, in fact, you are welcome to simply come and learn more about us (you can still receive our monthly newsletter, participate in a Bible study, join the choir, or enjoy any of our fellowship events).

Please let us know if you are interested in attending, by contacting the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

The First Presbyterian Preschool ("FPP") is proud to support the mission of FPC as a Matthew 25 congregation. The mission of the Preschool, founded in 1977, fulfills all three goals of the Matthew 25 initiative.

Building Congregational Vitality: The FPP provides a Christian preschool experience for generations of First Presbyterian families and friends in the Porter County community.

Dismantling Structural Racism: FPP has always welcomed and experienced diversity among its students. FPP strives to provide multicultural experiences with books, toys, songs, dance as well as observing Black History month, Cinco de Mayo, etc.

Eradicating Systemic Poverty: FPP provides an affordable, low-cost tuition to its families in comparison to other preschools in the area. FPP also provides a scholarship program for families experiencing difficult times meeting tuition responsibilities.

The First Presbyterian Preschool will begin its 48th year in the fall of 2024. Registration is now open for the 2024-25 school year. For more information you may call (219) 464-4985 or visit our website at www.pwnspreschoolvalpo.org Please invite interested friends or family members to enroll in FPP.

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Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our Meet the Author event. We really had a lot of fun!

As we approach the end of our school year, we are excited for our VIPizza Night to show our appreciation to parents and guardians of our students.

Both classes have also volunteered to make muffins for our PADS group. Baking seems to be a fan favorite with the kids! It is important that we help support the community outreach programs of our church.

Have a wonderful April!

PRAYER & PRAISE MINISTRY

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, you are welcome to contact the Prayer Warriors through the Prayer and Praise Ministry chain: bcgermann@gmail.com or (219) 477-9964.

OPPORTUNITY



FPCV Building & Grounds Team, Faith Formation Team & The Izaak Walton League of America PCC presents:

2024-2025 NATURALIST PROGRAM ON FPCV GROUNDS



This is a FREE year long program for all ages that will include beautifying God's creation even more here on the church property. There will be presentations of different wild life and fieldtrips to many Porter Co trails.

For more information and to reserve your spot, contact Trish Lawson tlawson@fpcvalpo.org



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BOOK CLUB OPPORTUNITY

Join Pastor Julia as she guides us through

Sensible Shoes by pastor and spiritual director,

Sharon Garlough Brown,

and introduces prayer and Scripture reading

practices from

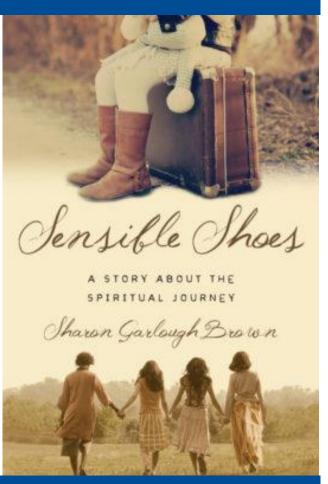
Christian tradition.

This is an 8-week offering Sundays April 7th through June 2, 2024 (skipping May 5th) 2pm-4pm in Room 101.

Books can be purchased at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Target.

Those interested feel free to email Pastor Julia at jzhao@fpcvalpo.org

Hope to see you there!



ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE

COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the above-captioned date/time during the in-person at FPC Valpo and online worship services (via Facebook Live/FPC website/FPC YouTube channel).

All are invited to the communion table in your home by bringing a piece of bread/cracker and a cup of juice/ wine or whatever common elements you have to celebrate communion. This way, our faith community can be joined together for the sacrament even though we are physically apart.



You make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.





BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

First Presbyterian Church March 4, 2024

Donors Registered = 29 Pints Collected = 29

Your support will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives!

One single blood donation can help save more than one life.

PLANNED GIVING

PLANNED GIVING: HELPING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Most of us understand the importance of committing a portion of our annual income to our church and recognize our annual giving is what we are called to return to God. We know those dollars support the *very existence* of our faith community including our fundamental ability to serve each other and those beyond our walls.

Unlike our Annual (Stewardship) giving, Planned Gifts (*Special* or *Legacy Gifts*), generally given from accumulated assets, are over and above our regular annual giving and require us to decide on the best financial way to make such a gift along with how we wish for it to be used. If thoughtfully structured, a charitable Planned Gift can even help reduce our taxes.

Throughout First Presbyterian's history we too have been blessed by these types of gifts. The brief listing below **provides a sampling of gifts** received during the last two decades.

- 1) Several *undesignated* gifts (given without requirements for their use) were directed by Session to:
 - the purchase of sanctuary chairs that replaced worn, broken pews;
 - the purchase of hand bells that created a new music ministry;
 - a set aside for building emergencies; and
 - new equipment that made it possible to construct a successful live stream and stay connected as a congregation during the pandemic.
- 2) Gifts designated by donors for a specific purpose have provided our faith community with:
 - a beautiful outdoor worship and gathering pavilion;
 - a children's playground for children of members and friends as well as preschool children;
 - a chancel suite of handcrafted furniture for our communal sacred worship;
 - the ability to support several mission efforts; and
 - a fully paid off mortgage, freeing operating dollars for other essentials.
- 3) Finally, gifts *designated to the Church Endowment* (which conserves principal) have returned almost \$90,000 dollars to First Presbyterian since 2016 and have supported:
 - scholarships;
 - our music ministry;
 - mission and ministry projects including the Carrie Newcomer concert with all concert proceeds donated to the Caring Place; and
 - church operating expenses.

Truly, so much of what First Presbyterian has, uses or gives away comes from gifts that go beyond our annual giving. It is because of this reality and the abiding belief that First Presbyterian is a necessary and valuable presence in Valparaiso, that your Planned Giving Team asks you to prayerfully consider your faith community when you create an estate plan or when you simply wish to make a special charitable gift at any time.

For more information on the various ways to provide and direct a Planned Gift to First Presbyterian, please contact: Kathy Joseph (219-464-1144), Jim Hubbard (920-602-0322) or Paul Knauff (219-241-3309). We are glad to help you get started!

DEACONS DOINGS

(submitted by Jean Patton)

As in most years, 2024 looks to be a busy one for the Deacons attempting to show compassion and service to our Church Family and beyond. We are dedicated to reaching out to our approximately 20 Deacon Friends through personal visits, phone calls, and cards for holidays and birthdays. Prior to Easter flowers were delivered to them as well.

The Deacons are partnering with Congregational Life to be available to serve refreshments for families at funeral or memorial services when requested. Preparation and clearing of our communion service is another way the Deacons serve our congregation.

Future plans for 2024 include planting of native Indiana flowers or trees in our nature area, starting to organize the Advent bags as early as July, and joining with Faith Formation to host Family Nature Night planned for Tuesday, October 29 (*tentative date – to be confirmed*). Our Deacons Cookie Walk will be held at the Craft Fair Saturday, November 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Deacons on Call are available before church service on Sundays for all to share suggestions to reach our Church Family and others with God's love.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RESALE SHOP NEWS



With the help of dedicated volunteers and the support of our congregation, the Presbyterian Church Resale Shop is fulfilling its mission by supporting charitable causes in our community.



We were a proud sponsor of the Hilltop House Soups Dinner and our name and logo appeared in advertising for this fundraising event which was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Several of our volunteers attended, proudly wearing our Resale Shop volunteer shirts.

On March 15, 2024, Co-Moderators Mary Linda Scott and Sue Durnell and Member-at-Large Pastor Nancy Becker happily presented a donation check to The Caring Place in Valparaiso. This nonprofit organization provides much needed assistance to victims of domestic violence and abuse. Their gratitude for our support was heartwarming and humbling.

The Resale Shop exists to serve others. Please contact me if you would like to join our joyful group of volunteers.

Mary Linda Scott Co-Moderator Presbyterian Church Resale Shop Management Team nana6987@hotmail.com

CALENDAR

Monday, April 1, 2024 - Church Offi	ice Closed	
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, April 2, 2024	ř	
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
12:00 PM	FPPS Board Meeting	154, 155
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
2:00 PM	Membership Team (TBC)	154, 155
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Planned Giving	101
Wed., April 3, 2024	Timmed Styling	101
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
11:00 AM	Building and Grounds	154, 155
1:30 PM	Stewardship Team Meeting	154, 155
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:30 PM	Faith Formation Team	144, 145
6:30 PM	Worship Team	TBD
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
Thurs., April 4, 2024	TADS	1 chowship Han
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, April 5, 2024	Worship Team Renearsar	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Weekly Family Game Night	Friendship Room
Saturday, April 6, 2024	Weekly Family Game Night	riichuship Kooni

Sunday, April 7, 2024		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
9:00 AM	Exploring New Membership	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
11:00 AM	Congregational Life Team	FPC, Online
2:00 PM	Sensible Shoes Book Club	101
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, April 8, 2024		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, April 9, 2024		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Mission Team	154, 154
Wed., April 10, 2024		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
6:00 PM	iEngage Team Meeting	Online
7:00 PM	Finance Team	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, April 11, 2024		r
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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6:30 PM	Weekly Family Game Night	Friendship Room
Saturday, April 13, 2024	Janij Taninij Ganio Migni	Then admin toom
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CALENDAR

Sunday, April 28, 2024		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
9:00 AM	Exploring New Membership	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
2:00 PM	Sensible Shoes Book Club	101
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, April 29, 2024		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, April 30, 2024		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall

^{*} on calendar denotes in-person and streamed online: Facebook, fpcvalpo.org, FPC YouTube Channel:

www.fpcvalpo.org/worship-livestream, www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Za9RpS1LFHAmVd6XW_pTQ, or www.facebook.com/1stPresChurchValpo

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Applications for scholarships and service award to be given by First Presbyterian Church will be available online at https://www.fpcvalpo.org/scholarships on April 1, 2024. Please submit completed forms to the following address by June 9, 2024:

First Presbyterian Church 3401 N. Valparaiso Street Valparaiso, IN 46383 Attn: Scholarship Committee

The annual Anne Lauterbach Scholarships are available to high school graduates of any age who are pursuing education toward a post-high school degree.

The annual Lillian Wilson Graeber Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is active in First Presbyterian Church and in the community and who has been accepted by a two or year institution of higher learning.

The First Presbyterian Church Service Award will go to a graduating high school senior who is implementing post-secondary education plans.

Anyone with questions may contact committee members:

Jason Gordon (jrgordon@comcast.net); Connie Knauff (pcknauff@comcast.net); Doug Hollar (djhollar@comcast.net); or Cathy Greenawald (cathygreenawald@comcast.net)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 3 April 20
Victoria Olling Mary Henrichs
Kathryne Penninga

April 6

Kim Klancer April 21 Mark Ribordy

April 11

Allison Schmitt
April 22
Kathy Evans
April 12
Pete Goodpaster
Connie Knauff
Ken Koch

Ken Koch Tom Swihart

April 14

Ginger Boys April 23

Pat Buckwell Cameron Hebert Rhonda Coffin Michael McKee

Janice Loudermilk

Stephen Williams April 30

April 15 Mike Nuppnau
April Fifield Denise Stanko

April 16 Julie Fletcher-Golding Hayden Hughes

April 18 Jeanne Turner

April 19 Mike Croarkin If we inadvertently missed your birthday, please contact the church office.



MINISTRY ROSTER

SEXTON

Open: Rick Exley
Close: Paul Knauff

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

April 7 Kathryne Penninga April 21 Elizabeth Monroe

DEACON ON CALL SCHEDULE

April 14 Joy Dirks April 28 June Olling

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

April 7 Michael McKee
April 14 Betty Richardson
April 21 Elizabeth Monroe

April 28 Molly

USHERS SCHEDULE

April 7 Ben Keller

Madison Keller

Dave Goodwin

April 14 Jim Hubbard

Sharon Hubbard

Molly

April 21 Doug Hollar

Judy Hollar Jim Gray

April 28 Connie Knauff

Paul Knauff

Steve Scarborough

COMMUNION SERVERS

April 7 Mike Becker

Kathryne Penninga

Rose Ross

COMMUNION SET UP / CLEAN UP

April 7 Joy Dirks

WORSHIP FLOWER OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to donate worship flowers in honor/memory of a loved one or celebration, please fill out the information below and return it to the church office. If you would like to have the flowers delivered to the church, please do so by noon the Friday prior to he Sunday service. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact the church office at 219-464-4985. Thank you.

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Name(s):				
Phone:				
Email:				
In memory of	:			



DUE DATES – TIDINGS ARTICLES, BULLETIN ARTICLES AND SCREENS

Due Date for Tidings Articles:

The due date for Tidings articles is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. (i.e. June articles are due by May 15.) Please email articles to Dawn Scarborough in the church office at **dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org**

Due Date for Bulletin Articles, Screens, First Notes and/or Advertisements:

The due date for bulletin articles, First Notes, and announcements is noon the Monday prior to the publication.

Please email bulletin announcements and First Notes articles to Dawn Scarborough in the church office at:

dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org.

Please email screen announcements to Jeff Whitney at: jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org.

Thank you!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Pastor Kim Adams	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Rhonda Clark, Handbell Choir Director	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Sue Davis, Business Manager	sdavis@fpcvalpo.org
Brad Dirks, Organist	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Dan Higgins, Custodian	
Valarie Smart-Higgins, Custodian	
Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Trish Lawson, Director of Faith Formation	tlawson@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Church Administrator.	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org
John Stocks, Custodian	
Jeff Whitney, Director of Worship Music & Digital Technology	jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org
Julia Zhao, Associate Pastor in Residence	jzhao@fpcvalpo.org

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office at 219-464-4985.

Elders of Session	Ministry Team
Matthew Byerly	iEngage* Worship Team
Sharon Kinsey	Faith Formation Team Adult Faith Formation*
Jerry Kahrs	Finance Building and Grounds*
Harry Karabel	iEngage Team Worship Team*
Linda Long	Mission
Elizabeth Monroe	Membership Team Nominating Team Stewardship Team*
Kathryne Penninga	Worship Team Congregational Life* Mission *
Ron Phillips	Adult Faith Formation Team Faith Formation Team*
Rose Ross	Congregational Life
Jeanne Turner	Stewardship Team Membership*
Chip Wilkes	Personnel Team* Finance Team*

^{*}denotes Elder Rep.

Board of Deacons

Beth Germann, Moderator

Building and Grounds TeamPersonnel TeamVic Klancer, ModeratorJim Hubbard, ModeratorModerator of SessionClerk of Session Pro TemPastor Kim AdamsJim HubbardMembership ClerkPlanned Giving CommitteeElizabeth MonroeKathy Joseph, Moderator

MISSION STATEMENT: BUILDING DISCIPLES; GROWING IN FAITH; SERVING IN CHRIST'S NAME

