



The MESSENGER

September 2021

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Staff

the Rev. Jeffrey Lang

Amy

Director of Music and Organist

Kate

Choir Director

Megan

Vocalist

Paisley

Videographer

Deborah

Administrative Assistant

Logan

Vocalist



Items for the **October**

edition of this newsletter are

accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, September 27, 2020.**

Early submissions are always joyfully accepted!

Submitted information will be edited for clarity, accuracy, and length.



Worship resumes Sunday, September 12, when worship returns to the Sanctuary.

It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the summer season, but this is the case. Some of us took the opportunity for travel while others of us stayed local, enjoying the sunshine and generally fair weather right here. All of us can agree that the end of the cicadas' local visit here was an occasion to celebrate!

Our July worship was enriched by encouraging messages from the pulpit and a variety of music presented and planned by Amy and Kate. Hymnals finally reappeared in the sanctuary, and in incremental steps we began to sing together again inside.

August brought with it a change of setting—to the lovely front lawn of the church. On the first Sunday of August, we enjoyed fine weather and celebrated communion together. All five of the Sundays in August were planned for outside, reasonable weather conditions permitting. At the time of this writing, we have not yet enjoyed Doughnut Sunday, which is set for August 22, and which you'll undoubtedly know much more about by the time you are reading this article.

September inevitably ushers us back inside. The choir is looking forward to taking its place in the chancel once again. Their active practice schedule begins on Thursday, September 9, with their first appearance at worship planned for Sunday, the 12th.

To state that 2021 has been fraught with worries and uncertainties is not to overstate it for many of us. At the time of this writing, just like a recurring bad dream, there are public warnings about higher infection rates and the possible return to mask-wearing. We are so weary of this subject! I leave you instead with a New Testament passage that has never seemed so appropriate: *"Do not be anxious about anything. But in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God."* *Philippians 4:6*

A Story of Salvation

The Bible relates an overarching story of creation, fall, redemption and consummation beginning in the first book of Genesis and continuing on through the last book of Revelation.



From the Pastor's Desk

The Bible's Story begins by asserting that God created all that is.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

God's original creation, including human beings, was good and unmarred by the presence of sin.

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

Sin was introduced into God's perfect creation by the violation of God's standard by human beings.

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate." Genesis 3:6

Most Christian reflection on the Genesis story sees a fall from an original state of goodness into sin.

Genesis finds behind trouble and suffering, even death itself, the sorry result of sin. The fundamental problem of human beings is sin.

God promised redemption from sin through One who was to come.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15

God's promise unfolded over centuries as God called people into covenant relationship with Himself.

"I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God." Exodus 6:7

God called out to the people through prophets when they erred.

"Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity." Hosea 14:1

Those prophets looked ahead through the centuries to One first promised in Genesis 3:15 who would come to save all of God's people and transform the world.

Jesus Christ was God's promised redeemer and the unique revelation of Himself to humanity. Jesus fulfilled the expectations of Hebrew seers and prophets.

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son." Hebrews 1:1

Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and raised the dead. In response to his peaceable ministry, he was crucified and buried.

As a sign of God's vindication of Jesus, and a promise that sin and death would not finally foreclose on human life, God raised Jesus from death to life.

"God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it." Acts 2:24

At the close of history, there will be a final consummation, the judgment of the living and

the dead, and the ushering in of the eternal state when Jesus comes again.

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

The invitation to accept God’s free grace began in Genesis and concludes in Revelation.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes to take the water of life as a gift.”

Revelation 22:17

Answering that invitation looks different for various people.

Jesus invited the rich young man to sell all he had and follow him.

“Jesus said to him, ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” Matthew 19:21

Jesus pointed the religious Nicodemus away from trusting in his ethnic background or religious observance, urging instead a spiritual rebirth.

“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” John 3:3

Coming to faith may look like a dramatic conversion or a gradual process. Acts 16:25-34; 2 Timothy 3:14,15.

The important thing is responding to Christ in faith.

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

The free invitation of the gospel, the invitation to accept God’s saving love, the invitation to rest in God’s forgiving grace, is extended to all people.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

As a famous theologian once put it, “Accept that you are accepted.”

We bring nothing to God by which we might merit or earn our salvation. We can only bring our lives which need to be mended, healed, and made whole by God.

An old minister once finished many sermons with an invitation to trust in Jesus: “Give as much of yourself as you are able, to as much of Jesus as you can understand.”

That same invitation is extended to each one of us.

“For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:2

The foundation of our relationship is as straightforward as making that simple invitation our own.

“God, enable me to give as much of who I am to as much of your Son Jesus as I am able to understand. Amen.”

The person who trusts Christ for salvation enters a new and restored relationship with God.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Christ is setting right all that went wrong because of sin and bringing to birth a new creation.

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” Revelation 21:5a

May our lives and our world be renewed and remade by the love and grace of God.

DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan Armstrong, Marianna Briner, Jane Johnson, and Susy Spence (Moderator)

In our thoughts and prayers ...

William B
Levi C
Dottie E
Fern E
Dolores G
Jacquie O
Carolyn S
Afghan pastors and churches

We extend our sympathies to Dottie E and family at the death of Howard (Butch) E, August 5, 2021. Please keep Dottie and family in your prayers as they transition to life without Howard.



A Memorial Service is being planned for mid-October, to be held at the church. We'll share details as they become available.



The congregation welcomed Joe S into the membership of the church, along with his wife Diane. Joe's membership was transferred from the Presbytery of Cincinnati where it was held on behalf of Springdale Presbyterian Church following that historic church's closure. Joe and Diane bring significant church experience and wide-involvements to the life of FPCG.

Tim V was welcome into the membership of the church by reaffirmation of faith. Tim had previously been a member of a congregation in Holland, MI. His gift as a vocalist will certainly be appreciated by the choir.

The Rev. Dawn V, H.R. will relate to the church on a volunteer basis, organizing book discussions aimed toward women. We anticipate the Rev. Vagle becoming a vital part of the congregation's life.

Along with Joe and Diane, the congregation will undoubtedly be enriched by the involvement and gifts of Tim and Dawn.

Spotlight on Missions

Dave C delivered 81 pounds of food, personal care items, cleaning products, 2 dress shirts, and 2 pair of socks to Valley Interfaith

Community Resource Center after the August Food Offering. In addition, there were \$4.00 in band-a-buck donation.



You filled 20 Operation Christmas Child boxes

during Christmas in July! Thanks to your generosity, children who might otherwise feel forgotten will know that someone cared enough to share gifts with them this Christmas.

The five remaining boxes are available to anyone who wishes to fill them. Please follow the directions on the signs above the table outside the church office. All boxes should be returned no later than Sunday, October 10.

Your Mission committee thanks you for your generosity to each of these events.



Have you ever wondered how your donations to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) help our neighbors in need?

To date this year, VICRC has

- served 842 households totaling 2,824 individuals
- made 2,108 total visits, averaging 2.5 visits per household
- 501 of the 842 households have a female head of household
- 38% of those served were under the age of 18; 12% were over the age of 60
- Approximately 98% of clients were from households identified as extremely low income (at or below 30% AMI*) or very low income (at or below 50% AMI*)
- Over 25% of clients were identified as special needs, including veterans and the elderly



Thank you for your continued support of the Food Offering table and Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food events. Your donations are greatly appreciated by VICRC and those they serve!

24th Annual Golf Outing

In memory of Sylvia and Tom A
Saturday, September 18, 2021
Mill Course at Winton Woods
Quick Start 12:00 noon

It's not too late to sponsor a hole or to register* you or your 4-some, but you must act quickly!



Non-golfers are invited to heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, golf awards, and raffle drawings beginning at 5:00pm.

Raffle tickets will be available after worship. See Dave C, Tom S, or Mike F to purchase yours (\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00). You do not need to be present to win, but be sure to give one of the gentlemen named above your completed tickets so they are entered in the prize drawings.

*Pre-registration is not required, but is greatly appreciated.

*AMI—Area Medium Income



It's Skyline Time!

Wednesday, September 8

All men are invited to gather for lunch at Skyline on Kemper Road (across from Tri-County Mall). Lunch begins at 12:30PM.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Westi and Jim B.....	1
Mary G.....	2
Nancy G.....	13
Margie B.....	16
Joe S.....	16
Ruth B.....	17
Carson C.....	19
Carey C.....	20
Jaime H.....	20
Will K.....	21
Connor C.....	23



Concerts return to Christ Church!

Wednesday, September 8 at 12:05PM in the Historic Church

Dr. Tyler W. Robertson, *Director of Music and Organist*, will present a 30-minute concert on the pipe organ.

Women's BOOKCLUB

This fall we will be reading *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*, by Rachel Held Evans. The book is laced with humor and insight as she examines scriptures and contemplates spiritual issues with us.

Please join us in the church library from 10:00-11:30AM on September 22 and 29, October 6 and 13. Lunch follows at the Blue Bird Bakery. Please let us know you'll be attending by signing the sheet on the Church House bulletin board (beginning Sunday, September 5).

Paperback books are available on Amazon for \$14.07. (You don't have to read the book for the discussion and connection with others.)

Dawn V will lead the group. Discussion guides are available near where you pick up your bulletin each Sunday.



All women of the church are invited to gather at The Meritage, Tuesday, September 7, 5:00PM, when we'll enjoy fellowship and Happy Hour. The discussion topic will be 'Christian faith as counterculture'.

Come, join the discussion and enjoy the fellowship, and maybe an adult beverage and hors d'oeuvres or dessert!




September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 10:00AM - Worship (outdoors)	6 Church Office CLOSED in observance of 	7 9:00AM- Session reports due 3:00PM- Mission mtg 7:00PM- Wine, Women, and the Word (Meritage)	8 12:30PM- Men's Lunch @ Skyline 6:00pm- Session mtg	9 6:30PM - Ensemble Rehearsal	10	11 <i>"We must never allow September 11th to become a time for protest and division. Instead, this day must remain a time for promot- ing peace and mutual respect.</i> —Archbishop Timothy Dolan
12 10:30AM - Worship (Sanctuary) 11:15AM- Annual Meeting	13	14	15	16 6:30PM - Ensemble Rehearsal	17 6:00PM - Wedding Rehearsal	18 12:00PM - Golf Outing 4:30PM Wedding
19 10:30AM - Worship (Sanctuary) Food Offering	20	21	22 <i>First day of Autumn</i> 10:00AM - Women's Book Club	23 6:30PM - Ensemble Rehearsal	24	25
26 10:30AM - Worship (Sanctuary)	27 9:00AM- October Newsletter Items Due	28	29 10:00AM - Women's Book Club	30 6:30PM - Ensemble Rehearsal		



First Presbyterian Church, Glendale

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the Reverend Jeffrey Lang

Sunday, June 13-Sunday, September 5
worship begins at 10:00AM

Sunday, September 12-Sunday, June 5, 2022
worship begins at 10:30AM

Church Office Hours

Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM
Friday, closed

Shared with you in Christian love



Learn from leaves

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."



When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange, and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right, and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul—turned—Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!

—Janna Firestone