

FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 2019

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome;
her mild eyes command*

*The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!"
cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
-Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus"*

Dear friends,

I usually put a scripture passage at the top of my newsletter articles, but this month wanted to draw your attention to this ideal in the poem inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty. As I sailed past her on the Staten Island Ferry a few weeks ago, I remembered this poem. I couldn't even read it later without choking up.

The Bible has a lot to say about how God's people are called to treat non-citizens in their land. Emma Lazarus' poem reflects God's commands and represents some of our highest ideals as a country. "The New Colossus" follows the biblical imperatives about how we are called to treat those seeking refuge within our borders.

Unfortunately, our country today is not living up to these lofty ideals. Instead of the mighty woman with a torch named Mother of Exiles, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free meet impossibly long waits, often months of homelessness waiting for the right to even *approach* a port of entry. Small children are separated from their parents and packed into buildings with concrete floors and separated by chain link fences, denied soap, dry towels, showers, toothbrushes, protection from cold, and dry clothes. This is inexcusably wicked behavior toward anyone, especially children, many of whose only crime is seeking safety with their parents in the United States.

I know much of this situation is not new or particular to the current administration, and I know *good* solutions will be difficult and hard-fought, but I also know in my bones that this current "solution" is abominable, and its stench goes up before the LORD of Hosts. Please pray with me that our elected representatives will quickly find and enforce a way to keep our border secure without so vilely abusing those the Bible calls the people of God to protect: the most vulnerable.

David M. Schell, Pastor

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNER

We Feed People!

Again this year we will be preparing and hosting Free Community Dinners the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Courtyard Room. You are invited! We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, clean up or bring cookies or brownies for dessert. We also need volunteers to sit and fellowship with our neighborhood friends and share in the food, though you don't need to sign up for this.

We do not collect any money at the dinners, because the expenses are covered by special contributions from Fairplain Church members, friends, and a grant from Heart of Cook. So mark your calendars for the last Wednesday of each month, and look for the volunteer sign-up sheets in the Sunday bulletins. We look forward to your participation and support for this continuing outreach service to our community!

Please join us at our next Community Dinner on Wednesday, July 31, 2019!



JULY BIRTHDAYS



- 3: John Kauffman
- 4: Judy Kuhlman
- 6: Marion Crossman
- 9: Diane Cronk
- 22: Linda Cogswell
- 24: Sandi Corbitt
- 27: Eva Bodnar
- 27: Elaine Holt

SECRETARY SUPPLY

While Linda Cogswell is on vacation from July 30 through August 10, the church office will be open from 9 am-noon on the following dates:

Tuesday, July 30, Thursday, August 1, Friday, August 2, Monday, August 5, Tuesday, August 6, Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9.



CLERK'S CORNER

We lost **Lynette Burchard** on May 24, 2019 as she entered the church Triumphant. She will be missed. And just last month I wrote about how she and Lew helped clean the refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall. Our church membership now stands at 88 members with the death of Lynnette, and the removal of **Marcia and Rocky DeFrancesco** from our membership as requested by letter. In May, 40 worshipers were served communion, and average attendance was 42 for the month.

It's official. **Ronnie Zanella** has been accepted by the University of Nebraska - Lincoln to pursue his doctorate degree in choral conducting. His last week here will be Sunday, July 28. His outstanding preludes and postludes will be missed, as well as his personality. The Personnel Committee, with leadership from **Ernie Lewis**, will do our best to find an outstanding replacement.

Last Sunday **Fred Welch, President of the Corporation** of Fairplain Presbyterian Church, informed us of some of the work of Session. We have had comments and questions from members about the **deterioration of the soffit, cornice and Fascia of our Sanctuary**. The building is 65 years old and the wood up there is a bit difficult to power wash and paint on a regular basis, and as a result there is quite a bit of rotting. The food pantry addition is only 20 years old, but there is also quite a bit of rotting in that part of that building. We had about ten feet of that repaired last fall thanks to the generosity of Nan and Augie Meyer, and it stopped the leaking in the office area of the food pantry.

We have requested that if you folks decide to replace it, that we do it with PVC wood-like materials. That way they would never need to be repainted, perhaps power washed just to look clean. I hear plastic is expected to stick around for 500 years.

We are also looking at **replacing the 55-year-old boiler** that heats the education wing of the building. We can no longer get replacement parts for the boiler, and the man who came to give us a quote made the statement that the boiler is now used up. **Sunday June 30**, we will have an informational question and answer in the Courtyard room after worship. On **Sunday July 21**, we will have a Meeting of the Corporation in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

On Saturday, **September 14**, we are going to **host the meeting of the Presbytery!** We will need lots of volunteers host up to 150 people for the day, and include breakfast and lunch. Keep in mind, you do not have to be here all day. You can volunteer for any small part at any time of the day.

Turn the page for volunteer opportunities



4

Volunteers needed to host the Presbytery meeting:

Parking attendants: We will need 3 or 4 people to wear bright vests and direct parking.

Five to six hosts to greet people

Registration tables: We will need three registration tables (A- -M) and (N-Z) and several people to “man” or “woman” these tables. Along with the registration tables, one where we can collect lunch money. We need additional tables that can be placed nearby to contain formation that needs to be distributed.

Breakfast: Muffins or pastries, coffee, decaf, tea, water – We need help preparing and serving.

Lunch: We will need to offer a vegetarian option and be able to accommodate special requests- lunch can be anything we want to serve. We don't want lunch to exceed one hour, so simple is good. Lunch costs are usually \$8.00 per person. That gives us a budget with which to work.

Leaving Bags: A small paper lunch sack that contains a bottle of water, and some kind of snack for the ride home. Our presbytery includes an area from Cadillac to Jackson so some people are traveling quite a ways since we are sitting in the corner of the state. Those can be prepared by someone at home and then brought to the church.

Communion Served: Bread must be gluten free and we provide the servers of Deacons and Elders.

Offering Collected: Four people

This hopefully gives you an idea of what we need in order to host a meeting of Presbytery. Talk to Leslie Gilreath or Marlene Smith if you have questions or to volunteer!

Marlene Smith- Clerk

CYCLE RECYCLE BOXES

Please turn in your Cycle Recycle boxes and donations on **Sunday, September 8**. Thank you – Kim Edinger.

RUMMAGE SALE

Rummage Sale is coming back this fall. The exact dates are still being scheduled. Please watch for updates in you upcoming newsletters and bulletins.



SOUTH BEND CUBS BASEBALL GAME

Parish Life Committee is planning a trip to a South Bend Cubs baseball game on Sunday, August 11 @ 2:05 pm. We have reserved 20 seats for our group to sit in the same area of the stadium and 11 tickets have been purchased to date. We most likely carpool from the church parking lot for those who do not wish to drive. Handicapped accessibility will be available. Bring a friend or neighbor to come out for the game.

The cost is \$12 per person and includes the game ticket (traditional seating for our group), baseball cap, name of our church on sign. If you would like a food voucher or a parking pass for \$5.00 please indicate as well on this form.

We need at least 20 people to attend to get the group rate and have 11 people signed up so far. The deadline to purchase your tickets is **no later than Sunday, July 21**. **Checks should be made payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church (memo: baseball game)**. You can put your check and RSVP form below in Parish Life the offering plate or drop off at the church office.

SOUTH BEND CUBS BASEBALL GAME SIGN UP SHEET

_____ Yes, I/We plan to attend the Cubs game on August 11

_____ Number attending

_____ Amount of \$12 per person attached, payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church

_____ I would like a \$5.00 parking pass (separate check)

_____ I am willing to give others a ride

_____ I am interested in a food voucher

Signed: _____



6

FUTURE PARISH LIFE EVENTS

Church Picnic: Sunday, September 8, immediately following the worship service. The picnic will be held on the west property.

Please bring a dish to pass – chicken will be provided as well as table service & beverages. If can bring an outdoor game, please see one of the committee members, Linda Cogswell, Kristen Schell or Candi Keschull or call the church office. Please watch for further details in upcoming newsletters.

Dinners for Eight (or 6): Watch for further details and sign-up sheets for fall and winter dates. You can host at your home or at the church if you wish. The host will provide the main entrée and beverages and the additional people can sign up to bring an appetizer, salad veggie or side dish, and dessert.

Twin City Players: Watch for further details for a theater performance at Twin City Players including date/time options and cost per ticket for our group. We can carpool from the church if you do not want to drive.

Cookie Decorating Class: Kristen Schell will lead a cookie decorating class on **Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 am** in Fellowship Hall. The cookies will be baked off first and then decorated. If you would like to attend the class, there will be sign-up sheet available in the Courtyard or you can contact Kristen after worship or call the church office. Donations will be taken to offset the cost of baking/decorating supplies.



NURSERY ATTENDANTS REQUESTED

If you would like to sign up to be a nursery volunteer for Sunday mornings, please see the schedule posted on the wall in the courtyard. We would need two volunteers for each Sunday. A background form/check will be necessary as well.

EXERCISE CLASSES

Mark your calendar for the upcoming exercise classes on Saturday mornings at 11 am in the Courtyard: July 6 and 27.



SUPPORTING THE WORK OF OUR DEACONS

YELLOW PEW ENVELOPES

As you will notice in the pews, the yellow envelopes have been reprinted for your donations toward Deacons General/Funeral Fund and Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen.

Deacons General Fund:

Goes towards the purchase of communion cups, oil for candles, Advent wax candles, flowers for shut-ins (Christmas and Easter), printed support materials for members: These Days devotional, Care Notes (various topics), greeting cards and postage for members; CD players for shut-ins.

Deacons Funeral Fund:

Goes towards any funeral luncheon expenses that are not reimbursed by the family.

Donations to the Deacons General Fund and/or Funeral Fund should be made payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church.



CARD REQUEST

The Deacons would like to request that if anyone has any extra get well cards, sympathy, or blank cards that are needing a home we have a suggestion! If you have extras please consider donating them to the deacons for use to outreach for the congregation. Thank you! You may give them to Mary Bartels, since she is our principle card writer, or any other deacon for her. Call Sonja Stormo call me if you have any questions. 269-465-9153.

SOUP KITCHEN

A storm consisting of high winds, heavy rainfall and a significant temperature drop did not deter 115 adults and 5 children from enjoying a warm lunch at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen on Thursday, June 14th.

Our lunch was prepared and served by volunteers: Eloise and Harold Gundersen, Leslie Gilreath, Judy Machalleck, Judy Eckroth, Sandy Welch, John Kauffman, Julie Nash and Pastor David. The menu included, ham and scalloped potatoes, buttered mixed greens, buttered bread, stewed apples, homemade blueberry cobbler and juice or milk.

Thank you to Sandy for preparing the cobbler, which is always a welcomed treat. And, it was a real treat to have our Judy's back!! Despite the weather, we were all thankful for the time shared together. – Julie Nash

8

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. David Schell, pastor@fairplainpc.com

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary – church email: office@fairplainpc.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 8:30 am-noon, 1:00-3:00 pm

Wednesday: Closed

Friday: 9:00 am-11:30 am (closed in the afternoon)

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music – email: vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com

Ronnie Zanella, Pianist/Accompanist – email: ronniezanella@gmail.com

Jenna McAllister, Treasurer – email: jennabetz@comcast.net

Chris Corbitt, Financial Secretary – email: cpc1_1999@yahoo.com

Bud Cornelius, Custodian