

FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2019

*So God created humankind in God's image,
in the image of God, God created them;
male and female God created them.* -Genesis 1:27

Dear BUMs,

A little over a decade ago, I met Ree Enlow. She was the Director of Program Services at Jumonville. I met her at an interview to serve at Jumonville, the camp where I met my wife Kristen later that year. At the end of that interview, she sat in a chair in the middle of a circle of young people about to spend their summer taking care of kids and telling them about Jesus. She looked each of us in the eye and told us,

You are a beautiful, unrepeatable miracle.

You are worth the air you breathe and the space you take up.

God did not make a mistake when he created you.

Those words dug their way deep into my soul. When I was growing up, the idea that I was a beautiful, unrepeatable miracle wasn't the sense I got from my dad. I always felt like I needed to justify my existence.

I called Ree later and asked her to repeat those words so I could write them down. I printed them and framed them. I hung them on my wall. I lived in her house for a few days and realized she actually believed it. For four summers, every time I met with a group of campers to facilitate adventure activities, that was the first thing I told them. I looked them in the eye and made them believe it. When I went to college, I hung the printout from the bunk above mine so I would see it every time I laid down.

Once I asked Ree where that phrasing came from. She said she had been facilitating a team building exercise for a group from a halfway house for men with addictions, and she had told them that. As the group was getting in the van to go back to the halfway house, she asked them what they had learned. One of the men said, "We're bums." Ree looked at him, disappointed. "Beautiful, Unrepeatable Miracles. BUMs!"

Ree is right. That line in Genesis 1:27 about being created in the image of God is one of the sources for a foundational Christian belief theologians call *imago dei*. And it will change your life, if you let it.

Take care, BUMs.

Rev. 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, August 28, 2019!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Sharon Jones
- 10: Nan Meyer
- 14: Bob Reed
- 15: Vladimir Slavujevic
- 15: Harold Gundersen
- 21: Rob Barker
- 29: Jack Cronk
- 31: Ramona Contreras



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: Linda Zitta
- Thursday, August 1: Leslie Gilreath
- Friday, August 2: Judy Kuhlman
- Monday, August 5: Linda Zitta
- Tuesday, August 6: Judy Kuhlman
- Thursday, August 8: Volunteer
- Friday, August 9: Phyllis Myers



SOUTH BEND CUBS BASEBALL GAME

For those persons who are attending the South Bend Cubs baseball game on **Sunday, Aug.11, at 2:05 pm - please meet in the church parking lot at 12:30 pm** to carpool to the stadium. See you at the game! Parish Life Committee



CYCLE RECYCLE BOXES

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN RUMMAGE SALE

To have a rummage sale this year was not an easy decision to make. Our work force is small, willing, but not as able as we would like. Other money raising projects were discussed, but none seemed right for us. So, we are going for it and will give it our best efforts. Mark your calendar for **Friday, October 4, from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday October 5, from 9 am-noon. You may begin to bring your rummage items on Tuesday September 17th. The last day for donations is Tuesday October 1.** We are asking that you not bring the following: holiday decorations, electronics (phones, televisions, computers etc.) or shoes. With everyone doing what they can to help, we can have a successful sale. Please contact the church office before bringing your rummage items. Thank you – Jo Ann Hartzell and Linda Zitta.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

There will be no August Women's Circle Meeting but we will resume Tuesday, September 10, at 10:00 am in the Courtyard.

CLERK REPORT

Fairplain Presbyterian Church membership stands at 88. Communion was served to 34 worshipers on June 2, and the average attendance for June was 42.

The Personnel committee has advertised the pianist position and have, so far, received two applications from what looks like highly qualified people. We will be interviewing for that position very soon. We are hoping to employ a very talented pianist, singer and accompanist.

We are in the planning states for the Presbytery meeting on September 14 which will be held at Fairplain Presbyterian Church. Please consider volunteering to help in some capacity. Below I have listed some of the ways you can help.

Parking attendant

Hosts to greet and direct people

Registration

Light breakfast preparers or set up and maintain buffet tables

Lunch -to set up and maintain buffet tables

Serving communion

Ushers to collect offering

Please talk to Leslie Gilreath or Marlene Smith if you want to volunteer or need additional information.

Building and Grounds Update:

On July 21, a Congregational/Corporation meeting was held to accept proposed renovations to the exterior of the church. The following motions were made and passed:

MOTION: to accept three elements to improve the church building and grounds: 1) to replace/refurbish the fascia, cornice and soffit of the entire building exterior; 2) to replace the 55 year-old boiler, which heats the education wing; and 3) to repair and re-seal the asphalt parking lot.

MOTION: to not spend more than \$125,000.00 on all projects, and to conduct a capital fund campaign.

MOTION: to obtain short-term loans to fund the projects as needed.

Calendar Events for August and September

August 3, 17 & 24, Stretching in the Courtyard 11:00 a.m.

August 4, Communion

August 28, Community Dinner 6:00 pm in Courtyard

September 1, Communion

September 8, Church Picnic

September 14, Presbytery Meeting

Marlene Smith-Clerk of Session

CHURCH PICNIC

On **Sunday, September 8**, immediately following the worship service, Parish Life Committee invites you to a church picnic on the west property. Please bring a dish to pass. Broasted chicken, beverages and tables settings will be provided. If you can bring an outdoor game, please contact one of the committee members, Linda Cogswell, Kristen Schell or Candi Keschull.

The approximate cost of the chicken is \$145.00 – if you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the chicken, please place in the basket marked “chicken” on the serving table during coffee hour beginning August 4 through September 1.

In order to plan for the picnic, we would like you to complete an RSVP form printed below and drop off at the church office or put in the offering plate by Sunday, September 1.

RSVP – CHURCH PICNIC

_____ Yes I/We plan to attend the church picnic on September 8.

_____ No I/We are not available to attend the church picnic on September 8.

_____ Yes I/We would like to make a donation toward the cost of chicken
Place your donation in the basket marked “chicken” on the serving table during coffee hour.

_____ Yes I/We can help Parish Life Committee & Bud set up, clean up for the picnic.

Signed : _____ Phone: _____



FUTURE PARISH LIFE EVENTS

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.



Twin City Players: Please join the Parish Life Committee for a holiday show, Kris Kringle the Musical, at Twin City Players on Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 pm. This production is acceptable for all ages. Tickets will go on sale beginning August 1 and are \$13.50 each. We need at least 12 people to attend to get the group rate. If you would like to attend, please make a check payable to Candi Kebschull, memo: Kris Kringle. You can give her your check directly or drop off at the church office and I will make sure she gets it.



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.

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.

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 if you have any questions. 269-465-9153.

SOUP KITCHEN

July 12 was a beautiful day in Benton Harbor. A total of 133 people enjoyed a lunch of sausage gravy over mashed potatoes, fresh green salad, applesauce, buttered bread, blueberry cobbler and juice or milk. July volunteers were Eloise and Harold Gundersen, Judy Eckroth, Sandy Welch, George Pica, John Kauffman, and Julie Nash. Thank you, Sandy, for preparing the cobbler. It always looks so good!



EXERCISE CLASSES

Mark your calendar for the upcoming exercise classes on Saturday mornings at 11 am in the Courtyard: August 3, 17 and 24.

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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

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

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

Bud Cornelius, Custodian