

FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2019

Dear friends,

On August 11, I preached on the story of Abraham from Hebrews 11. He was seventy-five when God called him to a country, even though he did not know where he was going. This church is sixty-five years old this year, but “You’re never too old / for God to do a new thing.”

I talked about how Abraham was a foreigner, and how when we go where God calls, sometimes we walk in our own front door and wonder, “Is this even the right place?”

Hebrews 11:15 says, “If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.” Friends, we are not thinking of the land we have left behind. We are not thinking of the glory days of Fairplain Presbyterian Church, and we are not going back to them. *We are going forward.*

Isaiah 54 tells the woman who has no children to build a bigger tent, saying the children of the woman with no children will be more than she who has many. I believe God is calling us here at Fairplain to build a bigger tent. Not to make the physical *building* larger, but to increase our sense of the area we are called to serve.

We talked about the church’s building at 210 West Napier Avenue, and how it’s bigger than necessary for the church that currently meets in it, and how this church might be called to use that building, that resource, to serve the community God has placed it in.

In Genesis 12:2, God promises to bless Abraham and that Abraham will be a blessing to the world. Abraham’s blessing is not just for himself, but for the world. Similarly, this building God has blessed us with: “It’s not just for us / it’s for everyone.”

The elders at Fairplain have only just begun discussing how the church building God has gifted us with might not just be for us, but for everyone, and how we might “build a bigger tent” to continue to expand our reach of care beyond the walls of the church building.

Keep an eye out for a letter from Session inviting you to participate in preparing this building to continue being used as a tool for ministry for years to come... and for notice of where they’ve discerned God’s call to go next!

Rev. David M. Schell, pastor



COMMUNITY 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 and friends. 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, September 25, 2019!



COMMUNITY DINNER JULY 2019

About 30 people – new friends, returning guests and Fairplain folks—enjoyed lasagna, tossed salad, rolls, and cookies. We also enjoyed lots of fun and conversation. Thanks to Vicki Born, Judy Eckroth, Leslie Gilreath, John Kauffman, and Sonja Stormo who helped make it happen. Next dinner is a cookout, August 28, 6:00 pm. Good food and good friends! Volunteers are always appreciated. Call the office to sign up.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11: Jenna McAllister
 12: Dorothy Trachte
 20: Debbie Fagras
 26: Rosemary Holloway
 28: Eloise Gundersen



MUSIC NEWS

Greetings to all from Isaiah 35:10

“And the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

During the summer months we were blessed to have a great variety of performers, styles and compositions performed in our Sunday worships. Would like to thank all volunteer performers for their effort.

Here is a list of performers with the dates when they participated:

June 02 – Chancel Choir and Family Slavujevic Chimes & Bells

June 09 – Men’s Chorus and Ronnie Zanella, violin

June 16 – The Praise Band “Wherever Two ...”

June 23 – Ronnie Zanella, voice and piano and Jessica Link, soprano

June 30 – Fabio Siniscarchio, tenor and Ronnie Zanella, piano

July 07 – Melissa Cobb, soprano and Ronnie Zanella, piano

July 14 – The Praise Band “Wherever Two ...”

July 21 – Debbie Ostrander, Dan Smith, Marlene Smith & Robert Smith

July 28 – Melissa Cobb, soprano & Erik Gilreath, baritone with Ronnie Zanella, piano

August 04 – Jeannine Marks, soprano & Dorothy Trachte, piano

August 11 – Ronnie Zanella, piano, voice & violin with Kilim Chung, piano

August 18 – Charlene Jones, voice & piano

August 25 – Marlene & Robert Smith

This summer I spent 9 weeks in Southeast Europe with our daughters Ana and Marina visiting 4 countries: England, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro. My wife Branka was able to get only 2 weeks of vacation and my sister Nevena stayed 4 weeks. We just spent one long weekend all 5 of us together. Ana and Marina participated actively in 2 Christian camps – one in Croatia and the other in Serbia. It was the highlight of their summer vacation.

We as a family travel to that part of Europe every other year. Ana and Marina are required by us, their parents to “earn” their air tickets (about \$ 1,500 each) by being creative - preparing and recording 60 minutes of singing, playing instruments and reciting entirely from memory some quality Christian poetry in Serbian language. The result was a new, 2019 DVD in Serbian language. They also performed extensively in churches every weekend and in these Christian camps.

Some schools have already started their classes. It means that the summer holiday is over. The Chancel Choir will start its new season on Wednesday, August 28 at 7:00pm. ALL ARE WELCOME – STANDARD AND NEW MEMBERS ACCEPTED.

May God protect and richly bless all of us during this new season.

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music

CHURCH PICNIC

On **Sunday, September 8**, immediately following the worship service, Parish Life Committee invites you to a church picnic to be held in the Courtyard Room. 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 Kebschull.

The approximate cost of the chicken is \$119.00 – 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 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 which is \$145.00. Place your donation in the basket marked “chicken” on the serving table during coffee hour and will be there until September 1.

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

Signed : _____ Phone: _____



HELP WANTED! PRESBYTERY MEETING SEPTEMBER 14

On September 14, we’re honored to host the quarterly meeting of Lake Michigan Presbytery. We still need a couple of people to welcome guests and give directions, two or three to help with offering during worship, and four or so ordained elders or deacons to help with communion. We also need some food donations and helpers for coffee hosting and lunch. See Jenna McAllister to help with lunch or bring desserts. See Kim Edinger to help with coffee set up and serving or to bring food for that. Anything else, call Leslie Gilreath, 269-208-6046, or the office with questions or to volunteer. More information including job descriptions and the day’s schedule is on the sign-up sheet in the Courtyard Room. Many thanks for your help! It will be a great day. I’m sure. Leslie Gilreath



The next Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 10, at 10:00 am in the Courtyard Room. Elaine Holt is going to present the lesson and refreshments will be provided. We will be finalizing rummage sale details.

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.

EXERCISE CLASSES

Mark your calendar for the upcoming exercise class on September 7 at 11 am in Fellowship Hall

COLLEGE GRADUATE

Sarah Fagras graduated on May 4, 2019 from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with dual Bachelor Degrees in Environmental Studies and Fisheries & Wildlife – her goal is to work in conservation. Sarah is the daughter of Debbie Fragras and granddaughter of Sharon Jones. Congrats Sarah!

LITURGISTS

If you would like to be a liturgist on Sunday morning, please contact Linda Cogswell in the church office. Thank you.

SECRETARY SUPPLY

Linda Cogswell will be on vacation from September 27 through October 5. The church office will be open from 9 am-noon on these days.



CLERKS CORNER

The membership of Fairplain Presbyterian Church as of August 21, is 87 members. Attendance for July averaged 46 at worship.

Calendar of Events for September

- September 1, Communion Sunday
- September 7, **Stretching** in the Courtyard, 11:00 a.m.
- September 8, Church picnic, celebrating our **65th anniversary**.
- September 10, Session meeting in CE room, 7:00 p.m.
- September 14, Host **Presbytery** meeting at our church.
- September 15, Praise team plays in worship.
- September 25, Community dinner, Courtyard, 6:00 p.m.
- September 29, Deacon meeting in CE room after worship.

If you have been at church, you can see the changes that are taking place as a result of our decision to do some renovating. The parking lot weeds have been killed, and Arnt Asphalt has already patched areas that were needing special attention. The final two coats of asphalt will be completed on Sept. 3.

The soffits, fascia and cornice continue to change around the building. All the tall peaks have been powerwashed and primed and are ready for the PVC to be applied. Be careful that you are hanging onto something when you stand to look up. We don't want anyone falling because they are curious to see the changes.

On Sunday, **September 8**, we will have our annual church picnic, but this time it is celebrating our 65th anniversary as a church in this location. We have invited past ministers to attend, and it will also be a time to bid farewell to one of our church members who is moving to another state. We will purchase chicken, so bring a dish to pass and come join the celebration!

As you saw on the calendar, Fairplain Presbyterian is hosting **the Presbytery of Lake Michigan** meeting on September 14. Presbytery holds four meetings a year and moves them to churches throughout the Presbytery which is a huge area encompassing Cadillac, to the north, over to Jackson to the east, and south and west to the state borders. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you want to stay for lunch, the cost will be \$8.00 and you need to let Linda know you want to attend. The worship service is always an uplifting experience, and I highly recommend you attend since it's right here and you don't have to drive hours to be a part of this worship experience. Worship begins a little after 9:00 a.m.

Our **community dinners** bring have a nice group of people from the community who join us. We would like to see more members enjoy this meal together. On the last Wednesday night of each month, come as you are and join us for a free dinner. They are always good!

Reaching out to you,

Marlene Smith, Clerk of Session

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.

SOUP KITCHEN JULY 2019

A warm summer day brought 120 people, including 5 children, for lunch at Soup Kitchen. Our menu was ham and scalloped potatoes, tossed salad, applesauce, buttered bread, blueberry cobbler, juice or milk. Cooks and servers included Judy Eckroth, Leslie Gilreath, Eloise Gundersen, Harold Gundersen, John Kauffman, Judy Machalleck, George Pica, and Pastor David Schell. Our special guest was Tonya Loving, a former member, Christian Ed and youth director who left us for Oklahoma a few years ago. What fun to see Tonya again! Many thanks to Tonya and Jill Wendel for making cobbler. Leslie Gilreath

RECORDING OF SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

If you would like a CD of **a specific Sunday** service, please contact the church office **with the date**. *NEW* for 2018 - An .mp3 file can also be made available on-line if you would prefer to listen to it on your computer. Email Chris Corbitt, cpc1_1999@yahoo.com and he will send you an invitation to listen to it via DropBox. You will NOT need to have DropBox installed on your computer.

DEACONS OUTREACH

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.

Food Pantry:

To purchase products we are low on, or take advantage of good sales on products, we normally furnish in food bags from our local retail grocer.

Soup Kitchen:

To purchase the needed side dishes for our once-a-month meals we prepare at the soup kitchen in Benton Harbor.

Donations to the Food Pantry and/or Soup Kitchen should be made payable to the Community Food Pantry at Fairplain Presbyterian Church.

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