

# FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...*

Hebrews 12:1, NRSV

Dear friends,

Last night, I was tired. Ryan wanted me to *stand up* and play with him and I have never felt gravity pulling me toward the couch quite that hard. I managed to stay up for a little while, but eventually gave in to the pull of the couch. What I wanted more than anything was a nap.

But after maybe 20 minutes of rest on the couch, I got up, put on my running shoes and earbuds, and *went out for a run*.

How did that happen? Was I not as tired as I thought I was? No, I could've gone to bed much more easily. Did I get very much refreshed in that 20 minutes of rest? Not really; I wasn't convinced I would be able to *walk* my planned route, let alone run it.

No, I could do it because it was Wednesday.

See, since around the start of the pandemic, I have been trying to run three times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I let it slip a little over the summer, but on Monday of this week, I went for a run and my brain fell right back into that groove. Because I'd spent the last year and a half building that habit, there was a big "IT'S TIME TO GO RUNNING" sign in my brain that I couldn't ignore. I *had* to go running.

I shared that example because it's a good habit for me, and because as I was walking down the street to warm up, I was confused how I had found the energy when twenty minutes earlier I could barely stand. Habits are powerful and strange.

But I could have just as easily shared one of my less helpful habits, like looking at my phone first thing in the morning, or finding myself going to bed at exactly 11:57 every single night, no matter how hard I try to go to bed earlier.

Habits are powerful things, maybe more powerful than we think, and they shape our lives in ways we might not realize until we start to consider them.

What habits or "ruts" are you stuck in? What things do you do automatically without thinking about it? Are any of them "weights" that slow you down from living a life of love for God and your neighbor? Or perhaps new habits you might start that will empower and enable that?

Blessings,  
Pastor David

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have prayer requests that you would like to leave as a voicemail to be played on Sunday morning, you can call 269-332-1118 to leave a message, and we will play it on Sunday morning.



Please join our virtual coffee hour at 10:45am Sundays. You will receive a link if you are subscribed to our email newsletters. You can subscribe at <https://www.fairplainpc.com/newsletters/>.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



3: Judy Machalleck  
20: Robert Smith  
24: Jo Ann Hartzell  
26: Lisa Kelleher

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU

On September 16 was my anniversary serving 25 years at Fairplain Presbyterian Church. I am so grateful for the members of the congregation, pastors, both past and present for being so generous and kind, making my job easier. Thank you, David, for giving me the beautiful mums. Thanks so much for giving me a reception following worship on September 19.

Peace and love!  
Linda Cogswell

# MUSIC NEWS

Greetings to all from Acts 16:25

*“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.”*

The following music groups and soloists enriched our worship services in September:

September 05 – Family Slavujevic Chimes & Bells and Vocal Ensemble

September 12 – The Praise Band “Wherever Two ...”

September 19 – Seiji Jacobson and Vladimir Slavujevic piano and clarinet

September 26 – Vladimir Slavujevic, vocal solos

**GREAT NEWS!!** After 18 months our choir will “resurrect” in October!! Early in September I sent emails to all choir members who were active in the past and the result was positive. Due to the pandemic, from March 2020 our choir was not allowed to meet, practice and perform. We will follow CDC’s guidelines regarding safety measures during our meetings.



For the past 18 months we were not without any music in our Sunday worship services. In the spring of 2020, our pastor David used pre-recorded material from earlier worships, as well as my family’s DVDs. Later, only participants were allowed to be present in the church with live streaming. That was the time when the Praise Band, my family and numerous guest musicians participated. For the past year, twelve families of my music students participated as volunteers with a total of 36 people involved in singing or playing instruments.

If everything goes as planned, our monthly schedule will be as follows:

- The choir will perform on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.
- The Praise Band “Wherever Two ...” will participate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month
- Guest volunteer musicians will come to enrich our worship experience on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.
- When there are 5 Sundays, my family will prepare some music.

In closing, may God bless us all, grant us wisdom, protection, guidance, good health, prosperity, and opportunity to be a blessing to others.

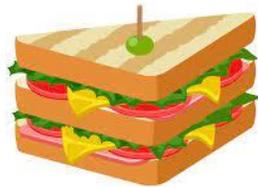
Vladimir Slavujevic  
Director of Music

## CLERK REPORT

Welcome to Fall! It's my favorite time of the year. The days are cool enough to be outdoors walking without being either too hot or too cold.

Fairplain Presbyterian is attempting to get a few things somewhat "normal." Session authorized Communion to be served on October 3. We figured that since we are having cookies and other snacks in the Courtyard, we may as well commence Communion.

Parish Life Committee is also planning a movie following worship on October 3. We will watch **Despicable Me**, which is a very cute movie, in the Fellowship Hall. Prior to the movie we are going to serve sandwiches which will be prepared at a sandwich shop. If you would like to join the fun, let Kim know what kind of sandwich you prefer when you sign into Sunday service. There will be a basket to throw in a donation for the sandwiches. Please see the sandwich insert on Page 5.



We have replaced two cameras as part of the streaming as well as some of the other streaming equipment. Thank you to the folks who donated the monies to purchase those items. We are having a few problems which we hope to work out as we upgrade the system.

Fairplain has 76 members on the roster. Now we can resume serving Communion to the folks who are shut-in, or unable to attend church. A Deacon and the Pastor David will call you to arrange a date and time.

Enjoy the season change,  
Marlene Smith-Clerk



## DEACONS

**These Days Request:** If you would like a copy of the current January – March These Days devotionals, please contact the church office and speak to Linda.

### **YELLOW PEW ENVELOPES**

The yellow envelopes have been reprinted for your donations toward Deacons General/Funeral Fund and Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen and are in the pews. Since we're not worshiping in the church building until the stay-home-stay-safe order is lifted, you can just make a note in the memo line of a check mailed to the church.

### **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.

Checks for donations to the Deacons General Fund and/or Funeral Fund should be made payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church. Include "Deacons" in the memo line.

## **CHURCH STAFF**

The Rev. David Schell, [pastor@fairplainpc.com](mailto:pastor@fairplainpc.com)

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary – church email: [office@fairplainpc.com](mailto:office@fairplainpc.com)

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music – email: [vladimirslavujevic5@gmail.com](mailto:vladimirslavujevic5@gmail.com)

Muyu Zou, Pianist – email: [ranking1zou@gmail.com](mailto:ranking1zou@gmail.com)

Jody Pauley, Nursery Attendant – email: [jodypauley1@gmail.com](mailto:jodypauley1@gmail.com)

Jenna McAllister, Treasurer – email: [jennabetz@comcast.net](mailto:jennabetz@comcast.net)

Jill Wendel, Financial Secretary – email: [jillannwendel@yahoo.com](mailto:jillannwendel@yahoo.com)

Bud Cornelius, Custodian

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary, is in the church office during the following days/hours:

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

Wednesday: Church Office closed

Friday: 9:00 am-11:30 am