



The Compass

May-June 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Spring Into Summer Pastoral Perspective

Following the liturgical season of Lent through Eastertide into Pentecost and afterward, the northern hemisphere's lengthening days of spring toward summertime (beyond the shift for Daylight Saving Time past the vernal equinox) beckons my gaze once again upon the horizon of our ecclesial experience at the ethereal essence of the summer solstice. Solitary sentiments of stillness in spiritual solitude seamlessly approach with attitudinal apropos of altitude above the Alleluia of the resurrection and the life that is ours by faith in the risen Christ Jesus. He *is* risen indeed!

As we await the ascension of the Ancient of Days in prayerfully sustained theological reflection on Jesus' post-resurrection appearances among us, we glean from the scriptural narrative's stirring of spiritual imagination by the poetic portrayal of Johannine revelation and biblical history's Acts of the Apostles throughout the lectionary passages. Amidst memorable moments, we honor Mothers and Fathers on Days of recognition and remembrance in the months of May and June commencing celebrations and ceremonies of weddings and graduations, engendering great expectations to ensue as friends and families find festivities begin burgeoning out all over.

Resounding ruminations in retrospect render reminiscences of renewed respite with resplendent realization at the resurrection of impending immanence experienced in impressionist eminence such as Monet's elicits one's attention at the Museum of Modern Art. From MoMa's curated remarks, one reads:

In the final decades of his life, Monet embarked on a series of monumental compositions depicting the lush lily ponds in his gardens in Giverny, in northwestern France. At the end of the nineteenth century, the painter had envisioned a circular installation of vast paintings—he called them **grandes décorations**—that would envelop the viewer in an expanse of water, flora, and sky. This vision materialized in the form of some forty large-scale panels, *Water Lilies* among them, that Monet produced and continuously reworked from 1914 until his death in 1926.

At this triptych's center, lilies bloom in a luminous pool of green and blue that is frothed with lavender-tinged reflections of clouds. Thick strokes in darker shades seep into the left panel, while on the right, sky and water are gently swallowed by an expanse of reddish-green vegetation. The dense composition hovers at the threshold of abstraction, its lack of horizon creating an effect of total immersion.¹



May we be immersed anew in the beauty of our Lord's water lilies along with the rest of God's renewing re-creation through treasured times of refreshing in these latter days. In the Spirit of Christ's Peace,
Pastor Rex

¹<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/80220>

PW MEETS THE SUFFRAGETTES



Suffragette re-enactors included (L-R) Alice Paul portrayed by Marcia Hotopp, Susan B. Anthony portrayed by Deb Brown, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton portrayed by Deb Johnson.



On April 23, the church PW group took a step back in time and learned about the efforts involved that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote in 1920. The special guests included re-enactors of the movement, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul.



Photos by Claire Smith



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER ACTIVITIES



On Easter, the Youth Sunday School class participated in an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter crafts, and they learned about Jesus' Resurrection. They also received baskets of goodies to take home.

Photos by Sarona Goodrich.



EASTER AT FPC PORTLAND

It was an especially joyous Easter morning this year at FPC Portland after the previous two Easter mornings spent under the cloud of Covid-19 concerns. The Handbell Choir and the Sanctuary Choir lent their glorious music to the service in praise to God for the resurrection of his son, Jesus. If you missed the service, you may view it on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPCPortland>. The Maundy Thursday service is also available for viewing.

Photo left by Claire Smith. Photos below by Mary McCord.



EASTER AT FPC PORTLAND
Easter Celebration
time of fellowship.



Photos by Claire Smith.

HAPPY Birthday



May

- 04 Eric Rogers
- 05 Emiley Bailey
Joey Bailey
- 08 Jay Goodrich
- 09 Reny Lingo
- 13 Emily Byrum
- 15 Jim Runkle
- 19 Audi Ford Cayetano
- 28 Cassandra Byrum
- 29 Eliza Hyatt
- 31 Lee Hagenjos

June

- 02 Christian Runkle
- 04 Rachel Vogler
- 07 Dave Hyatt
- 16 Stacy Lingo
Barbara Cortner
- 21 Joanna Knuth
Christina Myers
- 26 Bob Morehous

ACOLYTE SPOTLIGHT



Our Acolyte Spotlight shines this edition on Julisa. Julisa is the daughter of Teresa and Julian and the granddaughter of Christina and Chris. Her great-grandmother is Janice. Julisa enjoys her time as Acolyte and likes to play tag in her spare time. She likes to come to church to learn and her favorite Bible story is Noah's Ark. Thank you, Julisa, for serving as Acolyte and blessing our congregation with your service.



Photo by Sarona Goodrich.



The Church Office

will be closed

Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day)

through Thursday, June 2

BREAD OF LIFE

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner First Presbyterian Church will host is on Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day).

If you want to help serve or if you would like to provide some of the food, please contact Julia Schwomeyer at 726.4761 or call the church office at 726.8462.



Editor's Note: It is the policy of "The Compass" to refrain from publishing names of children pictured in order to protect their privacy and identity since our newsletter is published on the church website. Adults may be identified in certain circumstances.

MUSIC NOTES

Choir Schedule for the remainder of this choir season is:



- Sunday, May 1, meet at 9:00am and sing for the service
- Thursday, May 5, rehearsal at 5:30pm
- Sunday, May 8, meet at 9:00am and sing for the service
- Thursday, May 12, rehearsal at 5:30pm
- Sunday, May 15 meet at 9:00am and sing for the service



Condolences are extended to the family and friends of **John G. Young**; member of FPC Portland for 79 years. John passed away on February 25 in Zionsville, Indiana. A memorial service will be held May 27 at 2:00pm here in the church.



The Youth Sunday School Class recently made two more fleece blankets continuing their mission project of service to those around us. One blanket was delivered to the Youth Services Bureau and the other blanket was given to the Pregnancy Care Center. Photos by Debbie Ford.





**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Our Vision Statement

“To provide a ministry which will lead people to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and reach out with God’s love.”



CALENDAR



May

- 01 9:00am Choir Practice
Communion
Cookies, Coffee, Conversation
- 04 10:00am Presbytery Meeting
- 05 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 08 **Mother's Day**
9:00am Choir Practice
- 10 6:30pm Joint Session/Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
6:45pm Deacons Meeting
- 12 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 15 9:00am Choir Practice
- 27 2:00pm Memorial for John Young
- 30 **Memorial Day**
Bread of Life Dinner
- 30-31 **Church Office Closed**

June

- 01-02 **Church Office Closed**
- 05 Day of Pentecost
Special Offering Collected
Communion
- 13 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
- 14 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 19 **Father's Day**
- 21 First Day of Summer



**Church Office hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm
Closed on Friday**

**Sunday Morning Worship 9:30am
in person & via Facebook
Sunday School 10:45am**