



The Compass

July-August 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspective on Adaptive Challenges in Extra Ordinary Times after Pentecost ('22)

“Vincent van Gogh produced emotional, visually arresting paintings over the course of a career that lasted only a decade. Nature, and the people living closely to it, first stirred his artistic inclinations and continued to inspire him throughout his short life. But rather than faithfully depicting his surroundings, he painted landscapes altered by his imagination.”¹

Through continuing conversation with colleagues in ministry at pastoral gatherings amidst recent conferences on theological reflection, an overarching present theme and—at the same time—an undergirding current motif upon the notion of *adaptive challenges* prevails. We are ever it seems persevering amid ongoing transitions affording us continual opportunity to bear witness in the enduring process with perpetual discernment and wisdom from on high concerning our common plight and prophetic predicament in beloved community.

Within its sphere of thought, subtopics regarding various types of imagination arise to surface. From pastoral imagination to congregational imagination, in view of a vast vista covering the expanse of the church’s spiritual imagination while spanning a wide spectrum for further contemplation toward re-envisioning our ecclesial imagination into the future, the idea of imagining an eschatological approach to our shared dilemmas begins to coalesce in mind.

In creating *The Starry Night* (made 133 years ago in mid-June), “van Gogh heralded modern painting’s new embrace of mood, expression, symbol, and sentiment” as he was “inspired by the view from his window at the Saint-Paul-de-Mausole [Monastery] in Saint-Rémy, in southern France, where the [Dutch] artist spent twelve months in 1889–90”.²

“It reflects his direct observations of his view of the countryside from his window as well as the memories and emotions this view evoked in him. The steeple of the church, for example, resembles those common in his native Netherlands, while the mountains in the background describe those in his surrounding landscape.”³



We are, after all, in a sense, products of our varied ancestral intercultural milieus, influenced by distinctive atmospheric spatial environments to which we’ve been at times subjected, as well as formed in and forged through the forces of generational and genetic evolution. All this together comes to bear upon the apparent transformation required and manifest resiliency necessary to produce change in affect and effect upon a people’s situation in a surrounding world that is constantly changing.

There is among us here the unseen hand by the Spirit of the Lord in whose everlasting arms we are carried through adversity into times of refreshing — the holy and anointed One who is in all things working toward the good of those who love God and are called according to God’s purpose. (Romans 8:28)

May we continually progress forward in faith through these latter days under the mercy of the sovereign almighty who meets our every need. Along with you and one another, upon providence, in abundance of provision, grace and peace, I am

Pastor Rex

¹Publication excerpt from *Modern Art & Ideas on Coursera*

²<http://mo.ma/starrynight>

³Ibid.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY CELEBRATED

Christian Education Sunday was held recently to celebrate our Christian education programs and to thank all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Well done!



Acolytes for the past year were recognized and thanked for their service. Photo by Claire Smith.

Youth Sunday School teachers, (L-R) Debbie Ford and Sarona Goodrich were honored by the Christian Education Committee represented by committee chair, Jenny Stout. Photo by Claire Smith.



The choral group, A Choired Taste, from Arts Place, provided special musical selections during the celebration service. This group comprises several of our church members and is directed by Eric Rogers. Photo submitted.

Cont. Christian Education Sunday Celebration



Volunteers who deliver the weekly Children's Messages were thanked for their service (above L-R) Rachel Benirschke, Carolyn Scott, Pete Vogler, Gloria Green, Linda Frantz, and Christian Ed chair, Jenny Stout. Following the service, a time of Cookies, Coffee & Conversation was held. Photos by Claire Smith.



MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



Photos by Debbie Ford.

Once again this year, the Christian Education committee presented the ladies and gentlemen of the church with gifts honoring Mother's Day and Father's Day. The ladies received flowers in holders that were made by the committee & our youth, while the gentlemen received popcorn and keychains painted by our youth.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July

- 01 Bev Arnold
Larry Hiatt
- 03 David Loyd
- 04 Dennis Ford
- 06 Suzie Arnold
- 10 Linda Rodden
- 12 Tom McCord
- 13 Sam Benirschke
- 19 Ron Bisel
- 20 Paul Byrum
- 23 Becca James
- 27 Carol Knight
- 29 Meg Mauger
- 31 Violet Trinidad

August

- 09 Kathy Ayers
- 10 Sarona Goodrich
- 15 Brooklynn Byrum
- 23 Phil Frantz
Kadin Ross
- 24 Sandra Bailey
- 25 Seth Rodden
- 27 Donna Haggenjos
- 30 Lucas Rodden

HAGGENJOS WEDDING ANNOUNCED

Lauren Haggenjos and Zachary Watson recently announced their engagement. Lauren is a 2009 graduate of Jay County High School. She graduated cum laude from the University of Evansville in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Theatre Education with a minor in English. She is a Senior Training Specialist with Bristol Meyers Squibb - Cell Therapy in Seattle, Washington.

Zachary is a 2009 graduate of Rincon High School in Tucson, Arizona. He graduated from Northern Arizona University in 2014. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a focus in Conservation Biology. He is an implementation manager with NAVEX in Seattle, WA. He is also a published ornithologist.

Lauren is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Haggenjos of Portland. Zachary is the son of Ms. Deborah Watson of Tucson, Arizona.

The couple are planning an August wedding.



BREAD OF LIFE

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner First Presbyterian Church will host is on Monday, August 29.

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.



The Church Office
will be closed

Monday, July 4 - Tuesday, July 5





**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



July

- 03 Communion
Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 04 Independence Day-Church Office Closed
- 05 Church Office Closed

August

- 03 4:00pm Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.
- 06 Presbytery Meeting
- 07 Communion
Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 29 Bread of Life Community Dinner

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

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

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.