



The Compass

September-
October 2019

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspective — *On the In-Between*

Years ago, my late wife read an article in a publication focusing on the notion of being sandwiched between two generations. Upon sharing it with me and in the course of our ongoing conversation, I felt led to encourage her (and myself) to reflect further on it. After writing in her journal(s), she began to experience a sense of call to this time and space in which she acknowledged in her prayer life that God had placed her to bridge the gap between one generation and another other than her own.

Sometime later, a friend mentioned that they had been reading a book, delving into this subject in another way. *"The Land Between: Finding God in Difficult Transitions"* by Jeff Manion explores the Exodus of the people of Israel as they traversed through the desert land between the bondage of Egypt and the greater freedom of the promised land.

In the cycle of lectionary passages from the Pentateuch of the Old Testament, we are given pause to consider our own plight as a congregation gathered together from one generation to the next. The Books of the Law handed down from Moses through the generations of God's people provide for us an ample compendium of illustrations ripe for our application.

These ruminations serve to engender a renewed sense of call to proclaim the Lord our God beckoning us anew to bridge the gap that is before us in imparting the good news of the Gospel from one generation through us onto another. The church is at a critical juncture in the journey of faith together as the Lord leads further and farther to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every person.

We are in an *in-between* time through which we have been afforded a window of opportunity to choose to discern well and re-up our commitment to the call. We must stand once again for the way, the truth, and the life that our Lord and our God has given us in Jesus Christ that the world may know that the Father has sent the Son, once and for all.

Come join with others in community to gather together and rededicate, recommit and renew in devotional endeavor on Rally Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Like the Israelites before us, we are, beloved, chosen ones upon whom the mantle of leadership has been laid in order to effect the transition of God's people from generation to generation to generation for the glory of God to be manifest in the spread of the Gospel through the very end of the age.

May the Lord find us faithful in proclaiming the Word. And may God's presence go with us as we continue to go forth from this time and place.

Prayerfully yours, and His,

Pastor Rex

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YOUNG'S VISIT CELEBRATED



John and Gretchen Young, along with their daughters, Rebecca & Melissa, recently returned to First Presbyterian for their first visit since moving to Zionsville.

The church family celebrated the visit of our dear friends with a carry-in meal and a joyful time spent together. Photos by Vivian Morehous.



FPCP WELCOMES NEW ORGANIST



On Sunday, September 1, our new church organist, Noah Freeman Burch, will take part in his first worship service at First Presbyterian.

Noah is a student at Ball State University working on earning a major degree in violin performance and a minor degree in sacred music with an emphasis on organ. He is studying under professor Stephen Price focusing on Christian liturgical music and hymn playing.

He has served as an assistant organist/organist since 2014 in both Presbyterian and Catholic churches. *Photo by Barbara Cortner.*



- ◆ Rally Sunday is September 8
- ◆ Worship @ 9:00am
- ◆ Fellowship @ 10:05am
- ◆ Sunday School @ 10:15am
- ◆ Rally Sunday Carry-in @ 11:00am
 - ◇ Chicken will be catered by J.B. Goodrich
 - ◇ Please bring your favorite dishes to share
 - ◇ Beverages and tableware provided
- ◆ Adult Sunday School Class teachers: Pete Vogler & Tom Dunn
- ◆ K-5 Sunday School Class teachers: Debbie Ford & Sarona Goodrich
- ◆ Nursery Class (2-4 years) teacher: Lisa Vogler
- ◆ K-5 meets during worship following Children's Message & after Fellowship

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PLAN FALL BRUNCH

By Claire Smith

Mark your calendars now for our annual Presbyterian Women's Association Fall Brunch to be held on Saturday, October 12 at 10:00am. in the Fellowship Hall.

Our speaker will be Suzanne (Green) Guingrich who will share details about a June 2019 mission trip to Puerto Rico. Come enjoy a delicious brunch, meaningful devotions and program, and fellowship with your Presbyterian sisters on a beautiful autumn morning. Hope to see you there!



TRICK OR TREAT

This year the Christian Education Committee will once again be taking part in the Portland Merchants Trick or Treat Night on Thursday, October 31 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Committee members will distribute treats to all children that visit. A festive area to greet the children will be set up on the sidewalk in front of the church east entry-way.

You can help with this community outreach by providing individual Fun Size plain M&M packs for the committee to distribute. Last year over 300 children stopped by for treats. Please bring your M&Ms to the church by Sunday, October 13.

You can also take part in this event by volunteering to assist the committee in distributing the treats. If you'd like, you can even dress in costume (no masks, please).



COAT GIVE-AWAY

- Thursday, October 24
 - 9:00am-11:00am
 - 1:00pm-3:00pm
 - 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - No Questions Asked
- Volunteers are needed during these times to help distribute coats.
- Please contact Christina Myers if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions.

MUSIC NOTES

By Linda Rodden, Choir Director

We are so thrilled to welcome Noah to our church! We look forward to getting to know him, working on music with him, and helping him grow as a musician! He is thoughtful, talented, and funny and will no doubt help bring some of us oldies into the 21st century! Make sure you take time to greet Noah on his first Sunday, which is September 1! The choir looks forward to returning to rehearsal on Thursday, September 5, and I want to take this opportunity to welcome new singers to the group this year! If you have always wanted to be in the choir, it's YOUR year!!





September

- 02 Alice King
- 03 Madeline Benirschke
- 06 Tonya Hyatt
- 08 Vecil Heniser
- 09 Jordan Rodden
Daniel Scott
- 10 Chris Ford
- 12 Maria Hiatt
- 14 Harry Scott
- 21 Claire Smith
- 27 Sue Dunn
- 29 Stan Gockel

October

- 01 Adam Nixon
Sydney Nixon
- 02 Janice Calhoun
- 04 Carrie Byrum
- 05 Tom Dunn
- 06 Linda Frantz
Pam Rogers
- 14 Ivy Trinidad
- 17 Janet Barrett
- 18 Lola Joy
- 29 Lisa Vogler
- 30 Jerry Schwomeyer
- 31 Lorna Snyder

BREAD OF LIFE

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner First Presbyterian Church will host is on Monday, September 30.

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.



ACOLYTE SPOTLIGHT



Our Acolyte Spotlight shines this edition on Morgan. Morgan is 8 years old and likes coming to church where "we get to learn about God." She enjoys Sunday School because "we do arts and crafts." Her favorite Bible story is The Creation Story.

Thank you, Morgan, for serving as Acolyte and blessing our congregation with your service.

Photo by Sarona Goodrich.

Reminder: You can view, download and print a color copy of this newsletter from the church website www.firstpcportland.org.



**FIRST
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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



September

- 01 Communion/Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- 02 **Labor Day-Church Office Closed**
- 05 **5:30 Choir Practice**
- 08 **Rally Sunday**
- 10 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 11 Budget Request Deadline
- 12 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 17 4:00pm Foundation Meeting
- 19 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 23 First Day of Autumn
- 26 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 30 Bread of Life Community Dinner

October

- 03 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 06 **World Communion Sunday**
Peace & Global Witness Offering Collected
- 08 Communion/Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- 10 6:30pm Session Meeting
4:30pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 12 **10:00am PW Fall Brunch**
- 17 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 24 Coat Give-Away 9am-11am, 1pm-3pm, 5pm-7pm
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 31 5:00pm-7:00pm Merchant's Trick or Treat
5:30pm Choir Practice

Returning September 8

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00am
Fellowship 10:05am
Sunday School 10:15am

Church Office hours:
Monday-Thursday 8:00am-2:00pm
Closed on Friday.