

First Things First

July 2017

Pastor's Perspective

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Some months are more challenging than others when it comes to writing this note to you all. My hope has always been to give you words of encouragement, or to make you think about something in a new way, or to share something that has inspired (or amused) me. I guess that's still my hope for this last note from me to you.

I mentioned in the conversation starter on June 11 that, with previous experience of the same, you might think I would be familiar with the way God works and works until I can't **not** respond. The same God who called me from the security of a 9-to-5 to the unknown, and exciting, seminary is calling me from the security of being with you all to the unknown, and exciting, ministry of art. What I don't think I have yet conveyed to you all is why, amidst the uncertainty of the outcome, I am feeling great certainty about the direction. When I graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Fine Arts way back in the 1900's, I set aside art for my "big girl" job in the corporate world. I did projects on my own, mostly homemade gifts for family. When I first brought collaborative art projects to us in 2015, it was out my own deep longing to reconnect more regularly with my creative side and my belief that I could do so in a spiritually meaningful way. My time in preparing for, and working on, those projects felt like a time of wholeness, of integration, of fully being whom God created me to be. It is in creating for God's church that I most fully bring my whole self. It's where energy bubbles up, not where energy is depleted.

You are moving from a measure of security into an unknown, and exciting, future. And it's time like these that burst open the opportunities for re-invention and renaming and redefining. (Admit it, we all know someone who changed their name or their hairstyle or their whole look or their interests when they changed schools or jobs or towns.) I'm not suggesting you scrap everything - far from it. What if, though, you embrace the chance to let go of the things that deplete your energy, as individuals and as church, in favor of that which causes your energy to bubble up? Think about it this way - what events, if cancelled, leave you secretly happy or relieved? What events, if cancelled, bring you sadness? And, is it the event itself or the chance to gather?

Designer William Morris is known to have said "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." I think, in some ways, life's work is seeking the balance between utility and beauty, and releasing that which is neither. I say life's work because we are constantly encountering new things, new options, new opportunities which give us reason to decide if the "new" is beautiful, useful, or neither. I pray for abundant blessings on you as you work together to claim the useful and the beautiful, now and always.



Nicole

July Calendar

JULY 2

9:30 AM **Worship with Southminster***
Communion Sunday

Nelson Hall - Southminster

10:30 AM **Congregational Meeting***
Southminster Sanctuary

JULY 4 **Office Closed**

JULY 7

5:30 PM **Friday Night Bites***
Parking Lot

JULY 9

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

JULY 12

6:30 PM **Deacons' Meeting**
Oak Room

JULY 16

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

JULY 20

8:00 AM **Men's Breakfast**
Dady-Oh's

JULY 23

6:00 AM **Mission Trip leaves to Lake**
Traverse, SD

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

JULY 28

~9:00 PM **Mission Trip returns from Lake**
Traverse, SD

JULY 30

10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary

*see article

Staff Vacation:

July 3 - July 5: Carol on vacation

July 7 - July 12: Nicole on vacation

July 13 - July 16: Nicole on study leave

July 23 - July 28: Nicole on Mission Trip

Shared Worship with Southminster

Continuing our fine tradition of sharing worship with our daughter church over the summer, we'll come together for worship over the Independence Day weekend and the Labor Day weekend.

Please mark your calendars with the following details:

Sunday, July 2, 9:30 AM
Worship at Southminster

Sunday, September 3, 10:00 AM
Worship at First Presbyterian

Congregational Meeting

We will have a **congregational meeting** on **July 2 after worship** (in Southminster's sanctuary) for the purpose of **electing one elder and two deacons to fulfill unexpired terms**. Please plan to stick around for no more than ten minutes.

Have something for the **August** newsletter?
Please send it to

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Carol's mailbox by **Monday, July 17** to have it included. Any items received after the 17th will be included in the September newsletter.

Please note office hours are
Monday through Thursday,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Office Closed July 4.

Friday Night Bites

Come join us for the First Presbyterian Waukesha **Friday Night Live** cookout! We'll be grilling out in the parking lot (or in the Dining Room in the case of bad weather) on **July 7 at 5:30 PM**. We'll be serving up hamburgers and corn on the cob. The church will also provide buns, condiments, and drinks. We hope you'll bring salads, chips, or desserts to share. See you at the party!

Next date: **August 4**

July Birthdays

7/3 Heather Holberg
7/19 Linda Kopacka
7/29 Richard Dierbeck
7/31 Shannon Hajewski



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See Jim Ziegler if you have questions or need help signing up.

2017 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2017 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$30.00. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian might use your share elsewhere in the budget. Per Capita is not taken from your regular contributions because it must be designated by you for this specific use.

Please note "per capita" in the memo line. Thank you!

170 Acts of Kindness

Our tree in the Oak Room is really beginning to fill up with leaves noting acts of kindness. Keep up the great work! Our aim is to add 170 leaves (or more) to the tree in the days up to **September 8, 2017**. If you have any questions, see Jim Ziegler.

Change of Address

Gladys Manke
Avalon Square
222 Park Place
Apt. 272
Waukesha, WI 53186
(262) 446-9323

Mission Trip Fundraising

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped us, in big or small ways, to cover the costs of 375 of our 603 mile trip. Your generosity is so very greatly appreciated!

As we prepare to head to South Dakota, please keep us, and the community we will be serving, in your prayers.

If you're on Facebook, photos from the trip will be posted throughout the week on the church's Facebook page (look for First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha).

Plant Whisperer Needed

Do you have a green thumb? Nicole has been tending the plants in the office and they need someone to water them weekly - it's as simple as that! If you would be willing to give them a drink each Sunday (skipping occasionally doesn't hurt them), please let Carol know so we know we can pull this "ad." Thanks!

Session Recap

We lacked a quorum for our June meeting so no business was voted upon. We heard an update from the Nominating Committee and learned that fewer people are signing up to usher and read but folks are still very much needed. Filling in the coal bin has been completed. We moved any voting items to electronic vote via email, which Nicole would initiate the next day.

The session typically takes off July and August so the next recap will come after our September meeting.