

First Things First

September 2021

First of all, thank you for all of your prayers. Your Session is hard at work. We are moving in the direction of selling this beloved building to the Waukesha City Church; so now our attention is focused on discovering what downtown Waukesha Church we will “join with”. Let us keep praying that God will open our eyes to make clear the path forward. God has been with us this far, God will see us through this moment of transition.

Out of our conversations and interactions with the elders of Waukesha City Church, I have been impressed with their reaction to this building and its history. They love the various plaques around the building, and they intend on keeping those in place. They want to honor First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha and the rich history that we have had (since 1846).

It is like watching a relay race in slow motion. We have the baton and are entering the “passing zone”. They are beginning to run and are holding out their hand to take the baton from us and run their leg. We are “gassed” having given the race our all (for 185 years), they are primed to sprint off ahead. All in the name and power of Jesus the Christ our Savior and friend.

We are entering a watershed moment. In the near future, we will be leaving this beloved building which is filled with so many memories. Such years of wonderful worship. So many good ministries begun which helped so many others. So many good friendships and growth as followers of the living Christ.

There is grief here, but we have all known grief before. The loss of a spouse, the loss of driving privileges, the loss of our home, the loss of a good friend, or a child. We know that grief is part of life, that it shows us how deeply we have loved.

One of the first big moments of grief comes when we have moved through our shock and, for the first time- but not the last- fully feel our loss. Not just accept it, but welcome fully that feeling of loss into our depths, the deep hole that has been unexpectedly dug in our lives that we are unable to fill. Tears happen. It is only when we fully feel this loss that a doorway opens, and we are invited to move through to a different chapter in our life.

God walks with us during this time of grief.
God honors the depth of our feelings.
God is preparing us for the next chapter of our life together.
God has been with us this far;
God will see us through this moment of transition.

~Pastor Glen

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Questions and Answers with Pastor Glen

Since Session has declared that we will be exploring selling our building to the Waukesha City Church, some questions have arisen. As Session members, we are always willing to answer any questions that members may have. Here are a few questions that have come up and some answers. I hope they are helpful.

1. Who is Waukesha City Church?

From their website www.wakeshacitychurch.org: “Waukesha City Church (WCC) is a growing gospel community consisting of a group of people working together to establish a new church in the city of Waukesha. As a group, we believe that God has called us to start a church to reach out to people who might never have previously given any thought to the claims of Jesus Christ or the idea of ever being part of a church.” WCC is part of the Converge denomination www.converge.org.

2. How did Session find them? Or did they find us?

With Session’s approval, Pastor Glen called Berg Management to see if they were interested in buying our historic building. The person who answered the phone told him of a church that had recently called to see if any building in downtown Waukesha was for sale. That church was without a building. The person at Berg Management gave this unknown church our contact info. They called. I arranged to meet them with Elder Winkelmann for an initial conversation. The conversations have blossomed from there.

3. How many members does Waukesha City Church have?

About 100 members with another 50 or so regular visitors. They have over 70 youth and children (mostly children) attending church. They have been growing at about 15% per year for the past 5 years.

4. What does the Milwaukee Presbytery think of all of this?

We have had wonderful and wise counsel from the Presbytery of Milwaukee (MP). They helped us find an attorney who crafted the current lease (MP approved it too.) that we have with WCC. They continue to pray for us as we seek to find the downtown Waukesha Church to “join with”.

5. When will the building be sold?

That is a more complicated question. We are Presbyterian after all. We do things “decently and in order”. We need to be in consultation with the Milwaukee Presbytery. Before we sell this building, we will hold a congregational meeting in which all members are entitled to vote to sell. Stay tuned. This is a process of transparency. No closed doors. No smoke-filled rooms. We will keep all members informed as to where we are in the process as best as we are able.

6. Might my funeral be held here at the church building even after it is sold?

That is a solid YES!!!! WCC has promised that any FPCW member who would like their funeral in our beloved church building will be able to do so.

Questions and Answers with Pastor Glen continued...

7. What will happen to Pastor Glen?

I am a Temporary Bridge Pastor and am on my second contract with FPCW.

I have declared that my last Sunday will be May 1, 2022 (or sooner). I would like to take a two-month break and hike the Camino in northern Spain with my wife Christine before searching for another call as an Interim Minister.

Any other questions?

Please contact Pastor Glen pastorglen54@gmail.com, any Elder or the Church office.





A New Beginning

August 18, 2021

Rachel Yates

The four young men nodded earnestly in the conference room as they listened to the instructions from their landlord. He encouraged them to call if there were any problems, and everyone made sure they exchanged phone numbers. Then the keys were handed over, and a joyous “yeeee” came from one of the men. It was a new beginning to a journey that had brought only trouble so far.

The four were recently recovered from a labor trafficking situation by our ministry partner UMOS, and their case is still under investigation. For their protection and to avoid interfering with the authorities, I can't share many of their details at this point. Their situation, however, follows a painfully familiar pattern. The four were recruited in Central America to come to the United States for agricultural work, with a proper visa. They were promised \$16/hour for a large job in a nearby state. It would be good-paying, temporary work to supplement their household incomes.

Nothing was as promised. They were transported to different states than what their visas allowed, immediately putting them in violation of their work program. They received half of the pay that had been promised, for entirely different work. Under state and federal law, people who are victims of labor trafficking have protections, because it's recognized that the recruiters or employers are the ones violating the law through fraud, force, or coercion. When workers agree to cooperate with authorities on the investigation and prosecution, they remain in the United States until the conclusion of the case and might be able to receive a work permit during that interval. Because cases can drag out for years, the choice to remain here and away from families can be a tough one to make. Not surprisingly, some will choose to return home and to try to forget the trauma of what happened. Others, like these four men, make the courageous decision to stay and participate in our justice system.

With the help of generous Presbyterians who responded to the urgent call for donated items, we moved furniture and household supplies into the new apartment this past weekend. Thank you, Milwaukee Presbytery, for responding so quickly! These young men repeated expressed their thanks to you as well.

The next several months will be difficult while they await continued presence work visas, but UMOS offers continuing support under federal grants and through donations. One man hopes to find work in his field as an industrial electrical engineer. Another wants to complete the remaining two years on his mechanical engineering degree. The others are willing to work in any capacity free from fraud, force, and coercion.

In Matthew 25, Jesus spoke of those who were naked and needed clothing. In that image, we see people who are vulnerable and unable to care for their basic needs. Victims of labor trafficking suffer those same vulnerabilities. At the hands of exploiters, they are unable to care for themselves and their families. As we explore our call under Matthew 25, I encourage you to consider the Presbytery Moderator's invitation to watch a [condensed version of UMOS' webinar](#) on labor trafficking and to let us know if you're willing to be part of a response team, as people are recovered. Thank you for offering a new beginning to exploited workers in our midst.



September

SEPTEMBER 5

9:30 AM Communion Sunday
Sanctuary

SEPTEMBER 6

Labor Day Observed
Office Closed

6:00 PM Session Meeting



SEPTEMBER 8

6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting
Oak Room

SEPTEMBER 12

9:30 AM Worship
Commissioning of the Teacher*
Blessing of the Backpacks*
Sanctuary

10:30 AM Back to School Bash Fellowship*
Dining Room

SEPTEMBER 16

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

SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 AM Worship
Sanctuary
10:30 AM Adult Ed*
Downstairs

SEPTEMBER 21

9:00 AM Women's Breakfast*
The Coop in Waukesha

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 AM Worship
Sanctuary
10:30 AM Adult Ed*
Downstairs

*see article

Church office hours are
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
Office Closed September 6

September Birthdays

9/4 Turner Dittrich

9/5 Kaitlyn Lucht

9/14 Arlene Burdick

9/18 JoRae Schultz

9/23 Judie Berthelsen

9/23 Quentin Schultz

9/26 Lora Collins



Have something for the **October** newsletter?
Please send it to:

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Monday, September 20** to have it included. Any items received after the 20th might not make it into the October newsletter.



*The grass withers,
the flower fades;
but the word of our God
will stand for ever.*

~Isaiah 40:8

2021 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2021 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$38.75. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian can use your share elsewhere. Please note "per capita" in the memo line. Thank you!

Blessing of Backpacks and Commissioning of the Teacher

Blessing of Backpacks: As we return to the school year rhythm of worship, on **Sunday, September 12, during worship service**, we want to send our students into the year with a blessing. From Day Care to Graduate School, all students are invited to bring backpacks for us to bless.



We will also commission our preschool Sunday school teacher, **Linda Volmar** and honor all the teachers among us.

Back-to-School Bash

Who says you're too old to go back to school? Join us after worship on **Sunday, September 12, in the Dining Room** for our **Back-To-School Bash**. We'll partake of some good ol' cream of tomato soup along with grilled cheese and PB&J sandwiches (with some ham, turkey, tuna salad and cheese also available). The church will provide drinks too. Please contribute to the event with salads, chips, and desserts. After lunch, we'll whip up some fun with our Things-You-Should-Have-Learned-in-School Trivia game! Save me a seat!

Adult Ed

After a long hiatus from Adult Education at FPCW, we'll be restarting this Fall! **Join us downstairs after worship on September 19th and 26th** for the first two lessons of [The New Testament You Never Knew](#), a series of short videos featuring biblical scholars N.T. Wright and Michael Bird, who will guide us on a tour of the explosive story told in the New Testament. They will take us on a journey through Jesus' parables, miracles, death, and resurrection, as well as the expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how Jesus' mission can still transform the world today. Each class will also use a guided study and discussion led by elder Andrew Byshenk.

Loaves and Fishes



Our date for **Loaves and Fishes** is quickly approaching. **Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 19.** We will need volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. The crowd has been growing little by little and we want to make sure we have enough people to welcome our guests. If you can help, please contact Susan Byshenk so she knows who to expect. Desserts can be dropped off at church that morning in the Oak Room. Please clearly mark that they are for Loaves and Fishes. Thank you for your support of this important community ministry.



Women's Breakfast

Come join us for fellowship and good food as the women of First Presbyterian Church join for breakfast. **We will meet at 9:00 at the Coop in Waukesha, 350 Delafield St., on the third Tuesday of each month. Our kickoff is Tuesday, September 21.** Please let Gladys Manke know if you plan to attend so we know how big of a spot to reserve, though last minute guests are also welcome. Hope to see you there!

Next Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2021

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

*Details of the meeting are not available at this time and will be provided as soon as the information becomes available.



Session Recap

The Session has had a busy summer and was able to meet in June, July and August. Most of the time was spent discussing the future of the church, in terms of both the building and the congregation. Time was also spent discussing our Covid policy and what protocols should be in place.

FPCW signed a lease with Waukesha City Church which allows them to use the church for Sunday services and mid-week activities. They are using the former Caring Place space for administrative functions and programming activities. They agreed to a worship time of 10:45 am, which did require us to move our service up to 9:30 am. WCC expressed interest in purchasing the building, but that would not likely happen until 2022.

It continues to be the intent to join with another congregation. There are several potential churches that have been identified. The current plan is to start visiting these churches on Sunday to get a sense how well FPCW would fit. There was excitement as the other churches started to have in-person services, but this may be curtailed, due to the Delta variant.

At the August Session meeting, a decision was made to try to return to a pre-pandemic worship service. This would include hymn singing, passing of the peace and choir music. As of now, there will be a Rally Sunday event on September 12, which includes a Blessing of the Backpacks and a fellowship time after the service. The Delta variant may prevent these activities from occurring.

The Session continues to perform mission work and identify groups in need. FPCW donated to the Joshua Glover Justice Fund and will support Loaves and Fishes this year. We also signed a petition to support the SSO program which provides meals for Waukesha School District students.

Financially, the church is in a good position. We restarted the monthly draws from the Endowment Fund. The building and grounds continue to be well maintained. There are not any major expenses expected. Current number of FPCW members is 70.

Custodians Corner

To My Friendly Presbyterians:

I write these thoughts to whomever may read them and that hopefully (you the reader) won't take my comments too seriously but just maybe will give them some thought as we all head down the trail to wherever we are going?

I continue my custodial work at our Antique Church and I thank you all for allowing me to do so. I really love the place that I have called "My Church" for 68 of my 68 years and I guess I don't really know when to quit but I'm also sure that the signal or calling for me will come soon somehow.

I'm happy for all of us that we get to sing together again on Sunday Mornings and I'm also of the understanding that once again the Church Choir Loft will come alive not just with Karen and her magic fingers or Brianne and Erin with their magic voices (guests included) but our actual Choir!.....It seems like forever doesn't it? And I can remember months ago letting you all know that Pastor Glen is a singer as well. So maybe he will join in at some point with us in a musical or an acapella sermon or Special Tribute? From time to time you have heard Pastor in the Pulpit singing some lines and I think he would make a fine addition to our little Choir. Maybe the Choir joins him up front for a few Hymns.....maybe I should keep quiet now about this!

I would also like to mention that you have a voice in the decision making process at our Antique Church and that you should never be timid about speaking up! We are in this together and just like managing Covid there's no reason why we can't listen to each other as we travel our path. You are all fine people and deserve to be heard! Let us not be polarized like our Government Representatives but practice concentrated listening and respect others opinions. Respond thoughtfully. Saying nothing produces nothing. Speak up.....ok?

I will close my comments by mentioning that we forgot one of our Church Members Birthday!.....Therese didn't remember. Ella didn't remember. Pastor Glen couldn't possibly remember.....and this member continues to live and sing with all of us when able to do so! So do you give up? Think this old custodian has smelled too much disinfectant?.....Don't be embarrassed....The members name isn't a person at all! But a contributing instrument just the same! The name is AUSTIN! the last name is ORGAN!.....AUSTIN ORGAN. 1st Presbyterian's Musical Organ is 50 years old this year!....I think it was in February. Maybe Karen knows. So maybe we can have a party for Austin in the days ahead? Congratulations Austin and Thanks from ALL of us at FPC. Here's hoping you have 50 more to try and catch Frank Churchill.....wishful thinking! God Bless All of You! ~Bob



"September was a thirty-days long goodbye to summer, to the season that left everybody both happy and weary of the warm, humid weather and the exhausting but thrilling adventures." ~*Lea Malot*

"It is the glistening autumnal side of summer. I feel a cool vein in the breeze, which braces my thought, and I pass with pleasure over sheltered and sunny portions of the sand where the summer's heat is undiminished, and I realize what a friend I am losing." ~*Henry David Thoreau*

"Here is the ghost of summer that lived for us. Here is a promise of summer to be."
~*William E. Henley*

"Autumn has killed the summer with the sweetest and the softest kisses." ~*unknown*

"We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost." ~*Henry Rollins*

"In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!
Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.
Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall"

~*Robert Louis Stevenson*

"The familiar rhythm of the cricket's chirps create the soundtrack for each day, echoing Summer's end and that Autumn's on her way." ~*Patricia A. Fleming*

"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened." ~*Dr. Suess*