

# First Things First

Summer 2021

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It has been about a year since I answered the call of the Session and joined you all here at First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha. It has been quite the year. I offer these observations as a way to reflect on the past 12 months.

When I came, the whole world was in the grip of our first six months of COVID. There was no vaccine in sight. We did know that it spreads by vaporized droplets.

Some said that COVID would go away quite quickly and that it was not a big deal. Our scientific researchers said that COVID would be around for a while and we needed to take some sensible precautions: wash hands thoroughly, don't touch our faces and socially distance from others (6ft rule). Some dismissed the veracity of our scientists. It was a time of conflicting messages. Even the efficacy of wearing masks was fuzzy and became ridiculously politicized. Many people began to die from this disease. PPEs and other basic necessary precautions were in short supply—especially N95 masks for front line workers. Travel restrictions and then shutdowns happened. Working and going to school virtually from home became the norm. I am sure you could add more to this list.

Our church decided that we would still meet in person with many precautions in place: Weekly disinfecting (thank you Bob!). Hand washing. Mask wearing. No singing. Plus, greeting each other outside after service. We also devised a streamlined worship service. There was a lot of thoughtful discussions on a Session level as to how best to respond to this pandemic.

One quite another level, the Session was stymied because other churches in downtown Waukesha had shut down and gone virtual. There was no way to send out scouts to discover what downtown Waukesha Church we might “join with”.

As Session monitored the spread and deadliness of COVID, we decided to go virtual as well. With the able help of Russ Volmar, David Schultz, Jim Ziegler and Bob Pugh, we were able to record a weekly worship service and put it up on our webpage. That was an undertaking. Thank you all for your effort. We were virtual for about five months including a recorded Christmas Eve Service.

Ash Wednesday was held outside. We survived.

Since Session was COVID-stymied in our search for a church to “join with”, we began to look at the other issue: what to do about our beloved historical building.

Realizing that we were contractually obligated to give a one-year’s notice to The Caring Place, after much robust discussion, Session did so.

This prompted the Board of The Caring Place to thoroughly research how the delivery of personal health care was changing. After much robust discussion, with great regret, they decided to close this wonderful ministry as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. A commemorative luncheon was held during which both Bette Stevens and Gladys Manke were thanked for all their years of service. 34+ years of a wonderful ministry was celebrated. The church was deeply thanked for its consistent support of The Caring Place

So where are we now? The Session continues to explore what may be next for this historic building in which we worship as well as now that most people have been vaccinated. We may be able to send out some scouts to see what downtown Waukesha Church we might “join with”.

Look at what God has already done through us this year. Let’s keep praying that God will show us the way forward in the coming months. Please, please, please keep praying for this wonderful expression of God’s LIGHT and LOVE.

Happy Summer. Blessings. Peace,  
Pastor Glen



"IN *Happy*  
MOMENTS,  
PRAISE GOD.  
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,  
**SEEK** *God.*  
IN QUIET  
MOMENTS,  
*trust* GOD.  
IN EVERY MOMENT,  
THANK *God.*"





## What Is It?

April 28, 2021  
Rachel Yates

I've started on a new venture of rehabbing a home built in 1938. There have been a lot of surprises along the way, and undoubtedly I will share with you the up's and down's of the project as it progresses. Right now, I need your wisdom about a thing I found in the attic.

The unfinished attic was filled with belongings. We coordinated getting most of those items back to the last owners or donated what they no longer wanted. Then, there were the mystery items. Among them was a bundle of wood slats about 6-feet long, wrapped in a Chicago Tribune newspaper from 1939. Each slat bears hash marks, numbered 1 through 70. As I began pulling away the newspaper, I first thought maybe this was old surveying equipment. Then we noticed the teeth on each slat. Perhaps a loom? What is it?

This bundle from the original owner has remained stashed in the attic, untouched since 1939. It might be even older than that, but apparently wasn't worth hauling down the attic stairs. What is it? The house has a story to tell.

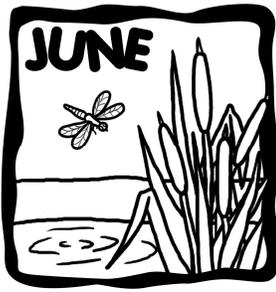
But I also find myself asking: what could it become? Not just what was it historically, but how could it be transformed into something new. Perhaps it's a rare antique that someone would treasure in its current form: how dare I suggest altering it?! If it's not worth preserving as a museum piece, however, could it become something else?

The ReStore Challenge from the Presbytery was a fun way to support Habitat for Humanity and show our creativity. We rehabbed items and made them new or different, as a way of supporting affordable housing efforts in our communities. Now, I've caught the bug and would like to fashion something out of the bundle of slats...something that can stay in the home as part of the story it has to tell.

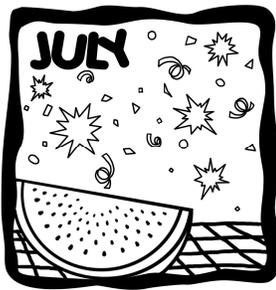
“What is it?”: a question to connect us to our past and our present. “What could it become?”: a question to connect us to our future. These questions open up possibility, while honoring what has been. I wonder if we ask these questions often enough in our ministries. As we emerge from the pandemic, we are given the space to examine ourselves, questioning not only what we've been, but what we could become.

There's an understandable rush to return to the familiarity of what was, but heaven forbid we become antiques, worth preserving only as museum pieces. In this liminal space, can we ask instead what form we need to take in order to be relevant and worth hauling down from the attic? We have a story to tell that is rooted in the past, but it must proclaim a future as well.

We are not limited by what has been. We can claim the best of our past and still rehab ourselves for the future. So, I'm still curious about what you have been, but I'm filled with the hope at the possibility of what you could become.



- JUNE 6**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary  
Communion Sunday
- JUNE 7**  
6:00 PM Session Meeting - Oak Room
- JUNE 9**  
6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting - Oak Room
- JUNE 13**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
- JUNE 17**  
8:00AM Men's Breakfast  
Dady-Oh's
- JUNE 20**  
10:00AM Worship - Sanctuary  
Father's Day
- JUNE 27**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary



- JULY 4**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary  
Communion Sunday  
Independence Day
- JULY 5**  
6:00 PM Session Meeting - Oak Room



- JULY 11**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
- JULY 14**  
6:30 PM Deacon's Meeting - Oak Room
- JULY 15**  
8:00 AM Men's Breakfast  
Dady-Oh's
- JULY 18**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
- JULY 25**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary



- AUGUST 1**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary  
Communion Sunday
- AUGUST 2**  
6:00 PM Session Meeting - Office
- AUGUST 8**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
- AUGUST 15**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
- AUGUST 19**  
8:00AM Men's Breakfast  
Dady-Oh's
- AUGUST 22**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
- AUGUST 29**  
10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary

## Summer Birthdays

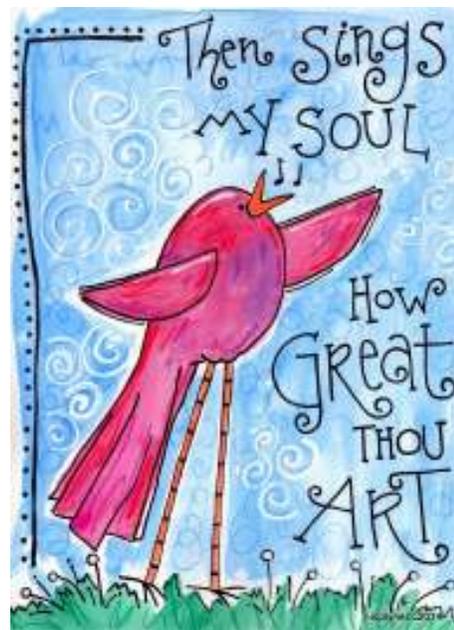
6/1 Karen Minson  
6/2 Earl Davison  
6/2 Thelma Meidenbauer  
6/6 Shane Sura  
6/11 Kathryn Herman  
6/15 Joel Pugh  
6/18 Ron Dallmann  
6/20 Susan Byshenk  
6/20 Sharon Paul  
6/29 Barb Klemp  
  
7/3 Heather Holberg  
7/15 Layla Byshenk  
7/19 Linda Kopacka  
7/31 Shannon Hajewski  
  
8/8 JoJo Hajewski  
8/13 Andy Manke  
8/15 Erika Margis  
8/16 Bettie Stevens  
8/17 Charlotte Hajewski  
8/20 Jim Winkelmann  
8/20 Julie Stover  
8/21 Ella Holberg  
8/23 Ruby Eastwood  
8/23 Monique Noska  
8/31 Jen Van Essen  
8/31 Joslynn Byshenk



## Sunday Services

Did you know you can view any previous Sunday service??? Go to our website, [www.firstpreswaukesha.org](http://www.firstpreswaukesha.org) and from the homepage select the Online Worship for the current Sunday's Service. A printable .pdf copy of the bulletin is available for that service as well.

You can also view the complete Sunday Service by visiting: **YouTube.com** and type into the search bar - First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha; scroll down to the Latest from First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha and you can select the recorded service.



Have something for the September newsletter?  
Please send it to:

[presby1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:presby1@sbcglobal.net)

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Thursday, August 19** to have it included. Any items received after the 19th will be included in the October newsletter.

**Summer Office Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM**



## Dad's Favorite Sayings

- 10) *When I was your age...*
- 9) *A little bit of dirt never hurt anyone.*
- 8) *Go ask your Mother.*
- 7) *Were you raised in a barn?*
- 6) *You don't know what hard work is.*
- 5) *It builds character.*
- 4) *Don't make me stop this car!*
- 3) *You're grounded til you're thirty.*
- 2) *Money doesn't grow on trees.*
- 1) *Because I said so!*

## Hospital or Care Visits

While it is our wish that all of our members stay healthy and strong, if you, or someone you love, is in the hospital or a care facility, **please call the church office at (262) 542-4243** to let us know. The Deacons would like to have the opportunity to visit, and to meet whatever needs come up while you are on the mend.



### *Community Connections & Cocktails*

Thursday, June 17  
5:00 - 6:00 PM

Our guests will be:

*Food Pantry of Waukesha County  
Waukesha Civic Theatre*

Mark your calendars for this event - we hope you will be able to join us!  
Go to: [wccf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event\\_date\\_id=1402](http://wccf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=1402) to register.  
This is a Zoom event.



## Hope Center Golf Outing – July 12, 2021 at Broadlands Golf Club

This year's event includes lunch, a round of golf with fun on-course events, and an evening program with appetizers, raffles and prizes!

County Executive Paul Farrow is scheduled to attend the morning activities.

Put together a foursome and join us for a great day of golf – and help us raise funds for the Hope Center's many outreach programs.

Registration materials and informational brochure available at [hopecenterwi.org](http://hopecenterwi.org).



## Visit First Presbyterian Online!

Our website, [www.FirstPresWaukesha.org](http://www.FirstPresWaukesha.org), features a calendar of upcoming events, archived conversation starters, helpful links, and much more. At the bottom of each page, you'll find links to our social media sites.

We're on Facebook:  
[@FirstPresbyterianWaukesha](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianWaukesha)

Our Instagram account is:  
[@firstpresbyterianwaukesha](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterianwaukesha)

Our Twitter feed is: [@FirstWaukesha](https://twitter.com/FirstWaukesha)

## Session Recap

In April the Session elected members to serve on the Endowment Committee for 2021. Andrew Byshek, Sara Winkleman and David Schultz will represent the Session. We also addressed changes within current personnel roles, including adjustments to hours and current compensation.

The Session continues to discuss the future of the church building. Berg Capital Management continues to be interested in purchasing the property. It is not clear what the future intent would be. There was also a discussion on a meeting that was held with FPCW with Waukesha City Church to purchase the building. It was decided to continue this conversation and a future meeting would be scheduled.

A FPCW member asked if the Session would change the current Covid policy to only require masks for non-vaccinated people. The CDC guidelines recommends masking, social distancing, and outdoor activities, with a minimum of two of these. The Session decided not to make any changes, but would continue to monitor guidance. It should be noted that the CDC did later update the guidance, dropping the mask requirement for vaccinated people. The Session decided to remain with its current policy.

A request was made by the Milwaukee Presbytery for FPCW to make a contribution to the Joshua Glover Justice Fund. This fund supports cash bail relief in Racine County. The Session decided to contribute \$5000 toward this fund. FPCW also collected \$277.07 for the 2021 One Great Hour of Sharing.



