

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

AUG 2021

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Phone 512.360.5231

## Pastor's Remarks:

From Rev. Kris Brown



As we ease into what feels normal, we might not want to rush back into our pictures of the past, our time before last year and Covid, until we consider the unexpected gains we have made. Like each of us, our church has come through a pretty rough time. We've learned to be a church in ways we most likely would not have imagined in 2019. If I am more than ready to start hugging again on Sundays, I also am thankful for how we have adapted to what has been going on around us. At this point, we cannot be completely certain about what we ought to do next because we don't exactly know where the virus is headed (please, please encourage anyone who hasn't to be vaccinated!). I am so thankful that we have learned better how to be flexible. This past year, we have shared some wonderful moments, even in hard times.

How are we different (and maybe better) than we were before Covid? We certainly are cleaner. This reflects how well we have been able to work together. So many folks have made very difficult things seem easy. Leah, thank you for the plastic pulpit shield. Lisa and Harleigh, thanks for roping off and taking care of the pews. Jane, thanks for your faithful vigilance regarding our building and our weekly service. It is precious to see everyone coming together to make things work.

Facebook has become part of how we worship. Thank you so much, Kathy and David! And thanks to Alex for his technical help. While having an on-line presence can be a little awkward (how, oh how, can I hide my scratchy singing voice?), our Sunday services are now reaching people unable to come to the building, people who otherwise might not be worshipping and hearing God's word. What an unexpected blessing!

We have discovered that we can do drive-up communions and carol singing at the last minute instead of a choir presentation, and we have developed a new, regular voice amongst us (Thank you for Bobby and for all you do, Lisa). At the same time, we have continued to be part of the Smithville community the way we always have. Thanks Susan, for your signs and bulletins and Bible studies. Thanks to Alan and Monica who week after week, Covid or no, bring us the most amazing music. Thanks to all of you who have helped decorate our church and make it a place of welcome. Thanks to our session members who have navigated turbulent waters with grit and grace. Of course, I could go on and on. Thanks for the faithful, thoughtful service so many of you give.

As Harleigh, Monica, David and Lily lead us into our next 150th year with energy, incredible ideas, and enthusiasm, I hope you feel as thankful as I do. What a joy it is to be part of our wonderful church! I can't wait to see what will happen in the months to come.

## Church Leadership

**Pastor** - Rev. Kris Brown - 512.608.4293 Email - kribrown1001@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session** - Barbara Maresh - Email - bvmaresh@yahoo.com

**Pastoral Assistant** - Susan Guedry - Email - sguedry85@gmail.com

**Music Director** - Lisa Maresh - Email - lisamaresh@yahoo.com

- Piano/Organ/Harp - Monica Miller
- Trumpet - Alan Ford/Wayne King

**Session Members:** Harleigh Altmeyer, Jane Istre, Kathy Ford, Lilly Willenberg, Lisa Maresh, Monica Miller, Barbara Maresh

**Worship & Christian Formation** - Lisa Maresh/Monica Miller

**Church Administration** - Jane Istre

**Mission Outreach & Fellowship** - Kathy Ford/Lilly Willenberg

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - Harleigh Altmeyer/Monica Miller

**Web Site** - [www.fpcsmithville.org](http://www.fpcsmithville.org), Facebook, Newsletter - Kathy Ford - kathrynford@austin.rr.com

### *Sunday Schedules*

*We are open for 11 am worship, masks are optional for fully vaccinated - we will continue our Face Book Live option also.*

*When we open completely the schedule will be:*

*Coffee Hour 9:45*

*Sunday School 10 am will begin in September*  
*Worship at 11 am -Currently in the building and*  
*on Face Book Live*

*Communion on First Sunday*

*Women's Bible Study – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday from Sept to*  
*May at 10 a.m.*

*Please check the website for changes in schedule*

UPCOMING EVENTS



AUGUST 8 - BOOK SHOWER FOR TRYSTIN - NOTE CHANGES DUE TO RISING COVID RATES:

There will be a decorated pink box in the narthex with a slit to drop gift books in. Anyone wanting to write on the box may do so. Guests with gift bags can put them under the table.

*This will not be an open shower after church as originally planned. Trystin will take her gifts home to open them.*

6:30 PM, Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> - an ice cream social & game night - Bring your favorite games and a friend!



SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, September 24, 2021 is the actual anniversary date of our beautiful church. We plan to have a special ceremony and pot luck dinner that evening at 6:30 pm. It will be wonderful to celebrate and honor our congregation over the last 150 years. Please join us!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## August Birthdays

- 8/1 - Susan Guedry
- 8/3 - Brook Hurta
- 8/16 - John Gosselink, JR.
- 8/17 - Anna Hernandez
- 7/19 - Paul Evans
- 8/22 - Haden Bell
- 8/22 - Lydia Johnson
- 8/23 - Sophie Morgan
- 8/24 - Kari Hines
- 8/26 - Monica Miller
- 8/27 - Gary Guedry
- 8/27 - Olivier Herrington Hernandez
- 8/28 - Willie Istre
- 8/29 - Barbara Maresh



## August Anniversaries

- 8/11 - Brook & Debbie Hurta
- 8/17 - Susan & Gary Guedry

## Cookbook Info

The new cookbooks are here and ready to purchase for \$20. They are available at the church and will be available at a few other locations to be announced later. Contact Monica Miller for additional info. There is one correction: pg. 105, Pistachio Pudding Cake - add- 1 sm. pkg. pistachio pudding mix to the CAKE ingredients list. This is in addition to the package in the FROSTING ingredients. The correction is being made to the unsold books. The cookbook is a fundraiser for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It makes a great gift!



## *August Communion Schedule*

Kathy is in charge of Communion for August. She will prepare the communion table, pick up the glasses at the end of the service, wash and put away the service trays.

Monica Miller has volunteered to bring the bread and juice for ALL communion services. Thank you, Monica!

If you cannot be at church when it is your turn to be in charge of the preparation for communion, please ask one of the other Elders to serve in your place.

August - Kathy Ford September - Lilly Willenberg

## **FOOD PANTRY - JULY**

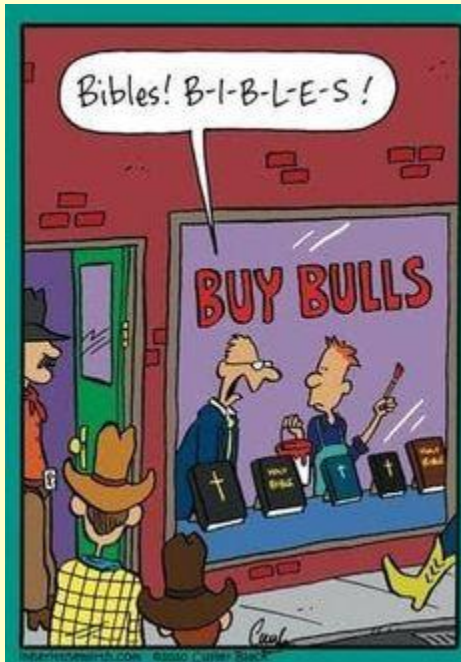
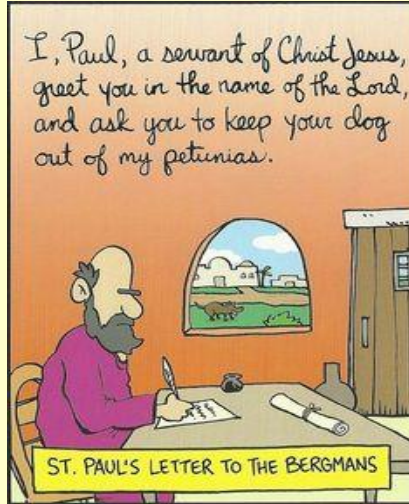
Remember to bring your donations for the food pantry on First Sunday. There are envelopes if you prefer to give money. The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank more economically than you can purchase it at the store.

From July 7 through July 28 the Food Pantry fed 402 clients with 860 family members, and 6 new families with 10 family members. The need is great!

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me everyday. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, Close Enough.



AUGUST 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><b>10th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                      11 am Service                      In the Building and on Facebook Live                      Communion Service</p> <p><i>National Friendship Day                      Celebrate young adult volunteers</i></p>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Hiroshima Day</i>	7
<p>8</p> <p><b>11th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                      11 am Service                      In the Building and on Facebook Live                      Book Shower for Trystin</p> <p><i>College and Young Adult Sunday</i></p>	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p><b>12 Sunday after Pentecost</b>                      11 am Service                      In the Building and on Facebook Live</p> <p><i>Day of Prayer for the Peaeiful Reunification of the Korean Peinsula</i>                      Youth in the Church and World</p>	16	17	18	19	20	21 6:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social and Game Night
<p>22</p> <p><b>13th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                      11 am Service                      In the Building and on Facebook Live</p> <p><b>Session Meeting</b></p>	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p><b>14th Sunday after Pentecost</b>                      11 am Service                      In the Building and on Facebook Live</p>	30	31				