

Our mission is to create disciples for Jesus Christ and to practice His teachings by loving and serving God and one another.

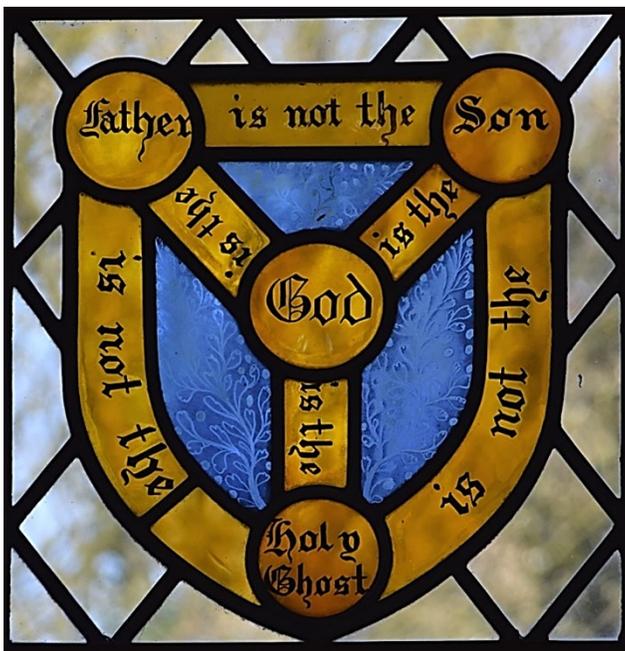


JUNE 2022

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TIMES

Letter from the Pastor



*Holy Trinity Shield, St. Mary the Virgin Church,
Cratfield, Suffolk, England*

Tucked away on a precious few calendars, most likely those belonging to churches and religious organizations, is a Sunday dedicated to a concept found nowhere explicitly in the Scriptures: Trinity Sunday. Observed in our Presbyterian/Reformed tradition on the Sunday following Pentecost each year, it is the one “festival” of the church calendar

God, as One God in a Trinity of Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), is such a widely-held belief in the Christian church around the world, that we can often take for granted the deep, hard-fought, hair-splitting, and heartbreaking work the early church undertook in the first few centuries of its life to explain who God is to the world. This is especially so when singing beloved hymns such as the first one in our hymnal: “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” As the first and last verses exclaim: “Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!”

How might one succinctly summarize that to which we’ve all borne witness over the past six months: from Advent to Christmas, Christmas to Lent, Lent to Easter, and Easter to Pentecost? How might one give a pithy explanation of God’s wonders and power, God’s love and mercy, God’s mindfulness for the world and humanity that we’ve all beheld and celebrated in our observances of God’s taking on flesh and dwelling among us in Jesus (Christmas), of Jesus’ death and bodily resurrection and ascension (Easter), of Jesus’ promised fulfillment of God’s Spirit dwelling in and with us all (Pentecost)? The concept that encompasses all of this, and more, is the **Trinity**.

As our denomination puts it:

Continued on following page...

*The triune God is the basis of all we are and do as Christians. In the name of this triune God we were baptized. As the baptized ones we bear the name of the triune God in our being. We are of the family of the triune God. We affirm this parentage when, in reciting creeds, we say what we believe. Our discipleship is rooted in the mighty acts of this triune God who is active in redeeming the world. The triune God is the basis of all our prayers—we pray **to** God the Father, **through** Jesus Christ, **by** the Holy Spirit. The Trinity holds central place in our faith.¹*

That bears worth repeating: "The Trinity holds central place in our faith."

When you wear a cross necklace, walk past a cross in your home, see a Nativity lit up on a lawn during the Christmas season, look upon the seal of the PC(USA), and so on, is it the triune God to whom your thoughts turn? When you pray at table, before bed, on your car ride to work, at the side of your loved one in the hospital, is it to the triune God that you pray? I encourage you to keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open for prompts, reminders, and affirmations of the Trinity all around you: how God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is alive and at work in and around you to bring about a new creation.

Sunday, June 12 is Trinity Sunday. And as we sing hymns, psalms and spiritual songs, recite creeds or confessions, remember our baptism, and go forth to bear the Word into the world, remember that it is the triune God whom we proclaim through song, whom we confess in creeds, whom we receive through baptism, and whom we reflect in the transforming love of God lived out in our lives. Remember this, and give thanks that every Sunday is the day of the Holy Trinity.

May the blessing of God Almighty – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always,

Peace,
Pastor Jason

¹Peter C. Bower, ed., *The Companion to The Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2003), 150.

FEAST OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 IS THE FEAST OF PENTECOST!

This is what is often referred to as the "birthday" of the church: when we remember the gifting of the Holy Spirit to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem, equipping them to proclaim the gospel in different languages to all who would hear.

While we may not experience "tongues of fire" on this day, we do give witness to the work of God's Spirit among us in other ways. This year, in particular, we will do so through the proclamation of God's mighty deeds of power in song. And we invite you to join us at either 8:30 or 10:30 for communion, prayer, and a hymn sing. Come armed with one or two verses of your favorite hymn from our hymnal and get ready to sing the faith and celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ.

AND DON'T FORGET: WEAR RED!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events, Classes, & Save the Date's

Father's Day & Juneteenth Service

Sunday, June 19th at 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Trinity Sunday | June 12th

June 12th 8:30 a.m. | Friendship Park

Day of Pentecost | June 5th

Communion, prayer, and a hymn sing at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

The liturgical color for this day is RED. So, for those of you who wear your Sunday finest, include a red tie, sport coat, shoes, belt, dress, etc. For those of you who dress more casually, wear a red shirt or shorts or sandals! Let's celebrate the "birthday" of the church, with song, with hearts aflame, and with even our clothing bearing witness to the movement of the Spirit of God among us!

The Bible from Scratch | Starts Sunday, June 5th

Our eight-week study entitled *The Bible From Scratch: The New Testament for Beginners* by Donald Griggs. All are welcome to attend. It will meet in the chapel at 9:30am. See you there!

Parent's Night Out | June 24th

This upcoming P.N.O.'s theme is "Thunderstorms"! Drop your kiddos off for snacks, a theme related craft, interactive activity, and bible lesson! P.N.O. is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and \$6/per child! Questions? Send your inquiries to our Interim Director of Faith Formation, Susana Vick at susana@firstpresmanhattan.com

Summer Fellowship Potluck | Summer 2022

The first Sunday through the summer months we will be hosting a fellowship potluck after the 10:30 a.m. service! Bring a finger food, gather, and share with fellow congregants! Drinks provided, disposable serve and flatware donations are appreciated! **Dates:** June 5, July 3, and August 7



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Our eight-week study entitled *The Bible From Scratch: The New Testament for Beginners* by Donald Griggs. This is for all adults who have - or fear they have - little to no Bible knowledge. Even seasoned students of the Bible may find this a great "refresher" or maybe even a challenge to some long-held, and inherited-but-never-tested convictions.

All are welcome to attend.
It starts Sunday, June 5th and will meet in the chapel at 9:30 a.m.

See you there!



MISSION UPDATE

We are amazed by the goodness and abundance of God's bounty.

One of the job descriptions of the Mission Committee is to *"oversee the allocation of mission funds to projects in our community and abroad."*

We have looked at how we can share God's bounty with those in need, and have earmarked our mission allocation as follows:

1. Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) Grow Green program.

We allocated \$20,000 (which is 44% of our annual budget) to 20 agencies in our local community that fall within the following categories:

- Basic Human Needs and Healthcare
- Children and Youth
- Faith Based

By participating in the Grow Green program, we were able to take advantage of the GMCF 50% match on donations made to participating endowment funds. Thus, our \$20,000 donation has the capability of providing \$30,000 in assistance to these local non-profits. Our donation will go directly to the selected organizations and the 50% match will go to grow the organization's endowment.

2. PCUSA Disaster Assistance.

We have allocated \$1,000 in support of emergency relief for those fleeing violence in Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion.

3. PCUSA Special Offerings.

As a church, we support the PCUSA's special offerings throughout the year. This year, in addition to the congregational offerings, we will be supporting these with an additional \$500 each as follows:

- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- Pentecostal Offering
- Peace and Global Witness Offering
- Christmas Joy Offering

4. FLINT HILLS PRAISEFEST 2022.

Mission Committee and FPC will be supporting and sponsoring Praisefest this year. Praisefest is a free, family-friendly Christian music festival—the largest in Kansas—where people feel welcome to worship God alongside their neighbors. Founded in 2011, this music festival has grown to an all-day event with three stages and over 10,000 attendees. It is based on three pillars: Community, Worship, & Generosity. It will be held at CiCo Park September 22-25.

- As an act of worship, 10% of all sponsorships and donations is set aside for two local charities: this year being Be Able and Young Life.
- They will also be doing a "hand-on" mission of packaging 100,100 meals for distribution world-wide. We are encouraging all of you to volunteer to assist in this food packing. This will be done on Sep 22-23 at Potorff Hall. More information on the 2-hour shifts and signup sheets will be provided as we get closer to the event. MC has earmarked \$5000 to purchase food for this mission event.
- September 24 will be the music festival.
- September 25 will be a community worship service.
- More to follow on what you can do to assist this exciting Christian community event. You can also get more information at praisefest.org.

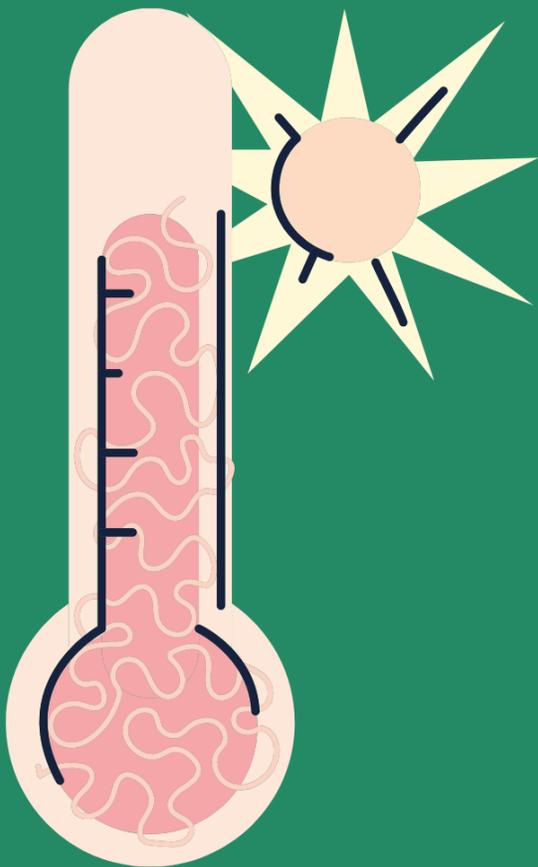
5. We have also identified mission dollars to support the following activities just to name a few:

- Heartland Camp Scholarships
- Bible League International
- Jesus Film Project
- Wycliff Bible Translators
- Royal Family Kids Camp of Manhattan
- Mission Adelante. (FPC has helped sponsor this worthwhile program in Kansas City for many years. The pandemic really hit them hard as they were not able to do many of the outreach programs that they do.)

We are so blessed to have a congregation that through their generous offerings and support of First Presbyterian allows us to support the needs of the Manhattan community and throughout the world. May God bless you all.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH · 6PM TO 8PM

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT



THE KIDS WILL LEARN ABOUT
THUNDERSTORMS

WITH THEME RELATED
SNACKS
CRAFTS
INTERACTIVE
ACTIVITY
& BIBLE LESSON



COST: \$6 PER CHILD

REGISTER BY CALLING THE CHURCH
OFFICE OR SENDING AN EMAIL TO:
SUSANA@FIRSTPRESMANHATTAN.COM



GROW Green Results

Earth Day, April 22, also brought us the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Grow Green Match Day in which the First Presbyterian Church participated for the first time.

What has taken years of exploration, fits and stops, discernment, prayer and preparation, and months of action by the Session, culminated with the Session establishing an Endowment Fund for the First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan and receiving the initial gifts to the Endowment through the Grow Green Match Day. And what an amazing day it was!

Your gifts, totaling \$24,098.68 were matched by the Howe Family Foundation with an additional \$7,998.55 for a grand total of \$32,097.23!

As has been said before, this Endowment Fund isn't for saving money; it is so that future generations might benefit from our generosity in giving today. The Endowment Fund ensures that we will be a forward-looking congregation dreaming, developing, and implementing new ministries and initiatives that are above and beyond general operating expenses and that embody the love, light and joy of Jesus Christ in this community and beyond. Think of it as "seed money" for ways we can bloom where we are planted, reaching out into our community building relationships, making connections, meeting needs of neighbors in new and creative ways, and providing opportunities to embody the justice, love, welcome and hospitality of Christ to God's people.

What are your dreams for future ministries and outreaches? What needs do you see that go largely unmet in our community? Where do you see the absence of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and how might First Presbyterian Church shine Christ's light in dark places revealing the transforming love of God lived out? This is what the Endowment Fund makes possible, and the possibilities can only be limited by our generosity in giving and our willingness to engage in holy imagination.

Thank you for your generous support of the Endowment Fund, and of the dreams of generations to come! And be on the lookout for more information and opportunities to grow this blessing!

If you would like to make a gift at any time, you may do so simply by indicating, with your gift to the church (or directly to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation), that it is for the **"First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund."** Also, feel free to speak with any of the members of the Fund Committee: Joan Burton, Maxine Coffey, Bob Haines, Marcia Hauck, Bob Mullen, or Jim Neill. They would be happy to address your questions or concerns.

FATHER'S DAY & JUNETEENTH

Sunday, June 19 isn't just the second Sunday after Pentecost, or the second official Juneteenth National Independence Day. It's also Father's Day: a day that began just six years before our sanctuary was built – June 19, 1910 in Spokane, Washington by a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, who was raised with her five siblings by a widower in Arkansas. It was initiated to complement Mother's Day, but it wasn't until 1972 that it became a national holiday! We invite you gather as we remember and give thanks for fathers and fatherhood. Below is a prayer for you, if you'd like to pray it with gratitude to God for the gift of fathers:

On this day when we remember fathers, we offer our prayers to you, O God, who has adopted us as sons and daughters through the waters of baptism.

Your Son, Jesus, was raised by Joseph the carpenter, who saw him grow year by year in strength and wisdom. We pray for all of those "father figures"—those real and surrogate in our family of faith—who have watched over, nurtured, guided, corrected, and blessed us; for the ways they have shown your Fatherly care, mercy, grace, provision, justice, patience, compassion, and love. Strengthen and bless fathers to be faithful, loving, and present for your people, O God.

We give you thanks for those fathers whom you have brought into your Kingdom ahead of their children, and your children whom you have brought into your Kingdom ahead of their fathers; enfold your saints with your Holy Light and enfold us all with your holy peace that surpasses all understanding. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer, and grant us your grace that we would entrust our lives into your never-failing care. For we ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, through whom we can, in trust and love, call you "Abba, father." Amen.

STEWARDSHIP SIGHTING!



Pam Crawford, Leicha Kennedy, and Chris Butler

Our church, in coordination with the Flint Hills Breadbasket, provides a food pantry that is open every Friday from 9 am to 11:30 am. We serve between 12 to 16 families each week and that number is growing. On Fridays you will find 4 out of our total 25 dedicated volunteers staffing our churches community food pantry. Our food pantry is located in Fisher Hall. If you would like more information contact our overall coordinator, Barbara Gatewood, or to add your name to the list of volunteers contact our volunteer coordinator, Josh Medicinebird, through the church office.

JUNE CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
IMPORTANT DATES: June 5th: Day of Pentecost June 5th: Pentecost Offering & Deacon's Offering June 12th: Trinity Sunday June 19th: Father's Day			1 Staff Meeting 9am	2	3 Food Pantry 9am
5 Parkside Worship 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Potluck Day of Pentecost	6 Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm Security Team Meeting 3pm	7 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	8 Personnel Meeting 1pm	9 Business Affairs Meeting 5pm	10 Food Pantry 9am
12 Parkside Worship 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Trinity Sunday	13 Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	14 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	15 Staff Meeting 9am Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Food Pantry 9am
19 Parkside Worship 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Father's Day 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	20 Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm Men's Lunch 12pm	21 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	22	23	24 Food Pantry 9am
26 Parkside Worship 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am 3rd Sunday after Pentecost	27 Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	28 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm Session Meeting 6:30pm	29 Staff Meeting 9am	30	

AN OPPORTUNITY IS WAITING...

Do you love sharing God's word? Socializing and having a good time? Being around and involved with college students? We have just the opportunity you may be looking for.

K-State's Ecumenical Campus Ministry program was founded by our church in 1920 as the Presbyterian Campus Ministry. In 1963, First Presbyterian was joined by the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church, and the Evangelical United Brethren churches and the Ministry was renamed the United Campus Christian Fellowship.

In 1991, Fellowship is renamed to Ecumenical Campus Ministry. Currently ECM is led and supported by four local churches of three different denominations: First Presbyterian, Trinity Presbyterian, First Christian and First Congregational.

First Presby holds three seats on the ECM Board of Directors currently filled by Pastor Jason, Steven Graham and Stephanie Petrie. Stephanie is coming off the board this summer, and we are looking for a female representative to take her place on the board. You might just be the right person to fill this position. If interested or you have questions, please contact the church office.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



06/01 Rae Jean Hunt

06/03 Mary Beth Anderson

06/03 Larry Bowers

06/07 Clark Cathleen Bowen

06/08 Marilyn Feldkamp

06/08 Mylo Wattenford

06/08 Kay Weigel

06/09 Aidan Hilton

06/11 Peter Tomlinson

06/13 Makeena Jensen

06/17 Shirley Stone

06/17 June Myers

06/17 Kristine Tiroch

06/19 Rebecca Wagner

06/19 Steve Levin

06/20 Joel Anderson

06/21 Linda Toy

06/22 Marion Kyle

06/27 Judy Lundberg

06/28 Elaine Lang

06/28 Matthew Thompson



First Presbyterian Church
801 Leavenworth St
Manhattan, KS 66502

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PARKSIDE SERVICE IS BACK!

Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in Friendship Park for worship!