

Presbyterian Times
June, 2016

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

On June 18, the General Assembly of the PC(USA) will convene in Portland, Oregon to discuss and vote on business items from Presbyteries and Synods all over the country. Commissioners and guests will worship and pray together. Commissioners will meet in their assigned committees and convene as the assembly to vote on the final recommendations. They will laugh, discuss, argue, compromise, and vote their conscience – as they feel led by the Spirit to vote. This year the assembly will be voting on a new stated clerk as well as moderators who will serve the denomination for two years.

There are many overtures that come to the General Assembly offices and then are assigned to committees to discuss and amend and then present in final form to the body. Among those drawing attention and discussion focus on how the General Assembly determines its social witness policy. Currently, this is done through the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. According to their web page on the PCUSA website, “the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) serves the prophetic calling of the whole Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by providing the General Assembly with careful studies of pressing moral challenges, media for discussion and discernment of Christian responsibilities, and policy recommendations for faithful action. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy is responsible for the process of developing and recommending social witness policy to the General Assembly. The term “social witness policy” refers to the positions adopted by the General Assembly to express its stance on and guide response to issues in the public order, including their relation to the church’s own life and mission. These positions may take the form of policy statements, resolutions, study papers, or social involvement reports.”

This advisory committee works to help congregations, presbyteries and synods approach difficult moral and social issues we all face. There are some who would like to change this process and have made an overture to the General Assembly to consider.

In addition to the ACSWP overtures, there are many others including changing the book of order to all for virtual attendance when the technology is available, addressing climate change, redrawing synod boundaries, and a number of other overtures. While there are many issues raised at the GA you may think strange, contentious or even petty, we must remember all of these overtures began with a Session and a Presbytery.

They reflect what is on the minds of Presbyterians all over the country, and so they will be prayerfully and thoughtfully considered.

If you would like to follow updates of the General Assembly meeting you may log on to the Assembly website at pc-biz.org. You may also check the website, pcusa.org or [The Presbyterian Outlook](#).

Please remember to keep the commissioners and other participants in your prayers. It is a great responsibility they have undertaken, and it is a very difficult job. Pray for God's guidance and for the Holy Spirit to move within the assembly as they discern where God is calling our church.

Mission

Frank Jessop

The **Pentecost Offering** is all about helping people begin life with a strong start. A solid foundation formed from childhood through young adulthood enables individuals to weather life's storms and build on life's opportunities. This age range is sometimes called the "first third of life".

Giving to the Pentecost Offering, and you help provide opportunities for our young people to forge a deep and lasting faith on which to grow and build their lives. Forty percent of the offering stays with our congregation. The Mission Committee and Session voted to give our 40% to the "Backpack Program". This year 430 children received food for the weekend from this program so that they would have something to eat. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers which provides opportunities for young adults to serve in communities around the world and grow as leaders through transformative Christian service. Twenty-five percent goes to Ministries with Youth; helping to guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them as leaders and messengers of God's word. Ten percent advocates for at risk children. Supporting vital ministries to improve education and provide a safe haven for children across the globe. We will dedicate the Pentecost Offering on Sunday, June 5th. If you make out a check, make the check out to the church and in the 'for' space write Pentecost Offering. The Mission Committee would like to thank you for supporting this special offering to help our youth.

Membership / Fellowship News

Bob May

Sunday Fellowship. Thanks to those who have prepared refreshments for us after worship. Please check the sign-up sheet just outside the office to "join in the fun".

First Friday Night Out – Friday, June 3rd 6:00 p.m. at Los Arcos Restaurant, Hwy 72.

Block Party – Each year we invite neighbors in our vicinity to a party to get to know us / and for us to know them. **Saturday, June 4th. from 5:00 to about 7:00 p.m.** we will have a Block Party on the Parking Lot /Fellowship Hall for a fun time of Food – Games – Music. Dixie Union will be our featured entertainment. Please come to enjoy a fun time and get to know those in our neighborhood.

Oat Theater – Dinner before. **Saturday, July 9th.** We'll have a carry-in dinner at Wellington Clubhouse about 6 p.m. and then enjoy the play “39 Steps” an Alfred Hitchcock thriller.

Common Call – MS&T Campus Student Ministry. New and returning students will receive information about our Church at the Fall Minerama event when classes resume in **August**. Look for opportunities to connect with campus folk.

Church Picnic – **Sunday, September 18th** noontime, after worship at the new Veterans Park, Southview Drive (just south of Hwy. 72).

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager



Happy Birthday wishes go out to...

Adele Heller, Jack Murray, Carol Jessop, Bob Mollenkamp, Ray Fox, Cheryl Koederitz, Lisa Matthews, Sam Kimball, Pat Mollenkamp, Joanne Zap, Julie Murray, and Betty Pietsch.

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to...

Ron and Denise Elliott, Pat and D.C. Look; Ed and Marilyn Schmidt; Steve and Jean Moran-Day; Darryl and Mary Alofs; Len and Vashy Rahaman; Pam and Bill Cottingham, Clayton and Melba Read; John and Jennifer Denbo; Amy and Britt Whitaker; and Julie and Susan Murray.



Reverend Hartley will be out of the office June 11- 25.
First Friday Night Out at Los Arcos June 3rd at 6 pm
Block Party featuring Dixie Union June 4th 5 – 7 pm
Flag Day June 14
Father's Day Sunday, June 19th
Summer Begins June 20
Articles for July Newsletter due in office June 24th